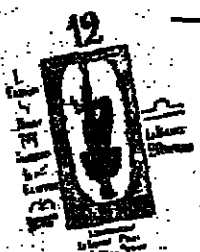




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☐ Consultant 50K
☐ Designer 48K
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SECTION 3**

Maths and grammar to be checked

Soft options at A level to be curbed

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GILLIAN SHEPARD will today order a return to rigorous testing of basic grammar and arithmetic at A level, and curb schools' ability to shop around for soft-option courses.

The Education Secretary, alarmed at a decline in literacy among even the brightest English A-level students over the past 20 years, wants all courses to place greater emphasis on spelling, syntax and writing skills.

Mrs Shepard plans a wide range of measures to ensure that students master both the essential techniques and the facts of their subject so that A levels remain the "gold standard" after almost a decade of soaring pass-rates.

Her plans will be announced as the most authoritative review of A levels and GCSEs — comparing standards in English, chemistry and mathematics papers since 1975 — is published. The report will show that the teaching of facts and formulae has been sacrificed to creativity and a broader knowledge.

In response, Mrs Shepard will ask examiners to limit the number of "open-book" test papers, which allow students to take texts into the examination hall. The practice of allowing science candidates to use formula sheets and high-performance calculators will also be restricted, because they are believed to be eroding problem-solving skills. English GCSE will concentrate more on grammar and comprehension.

Mrs Shepard also wants "substantial reductions" in the



Shepard: alarmed at decline in literacy

number of courses offered by examination boards, to prevent schools seeking "easier" courses and achieve greater consistency. Schools can choose from more than 20 English A level courses, and from 43 mathematics courses. The Education Secretary regards such a wide range as a force driving standards down, as boards effectively compete for business from schools anxious to secure the best grades. She does not want to nationalise the system, but hopes the process of mergers that has seen the number of boards fall from over twenty to six over the past decade will continue. If no further rationalisation is apparent by the end of next month, Mrs Shepard will take action.

However, George Turnbull, a spokesman for the Associated Examining Board, said that open-book examinations made tougher demands on pupils than memorising

texts "because if you do not know the text you will spend all your time looking through and trying to find quotations. The content of A levels has moved over 20 years, but we have tried to ensure standards have stayed the same."

He added: "There are only four boards for English at GCSE and A level which compares with 24 just ten years ago, and the content is very tightly controlled. If you want to continue the consistency idea, you would have only one university but there are more than 100 offering thousands of different courses."

The comparison of GCSE and A level standards over the past 20 years will show how marks given for showing a thorough knowledge of the basics have gradually reduced. Pupils are now required to have a wider range of knowledge in less depth.

This is not generally interpreted as a fall in standards by the report's authors — the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority and Ofsted, the school inspection agency. They believe that the main change has been the emphasis on understanding and creativity at the expense of learning facts.

However in mathematics, the report will say that a lower level of achievement is now needed for the same grades. Traditional skills such as algebra and problem-solving have declined, but expertise in other areas, such as statistics and probability, is improving.

Leading article, page 21



A marksman with some of his cormorant cull. The birds are a protected species

Anglers turn to guns for illegal cull of cormorants

By NICK NUTTALL,
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

MILITANT anglers are defying the law by shooting and poisoning cormorants, a protected species which they say is devastating their sport.

The birds, whose numbers have increased in recent years to around 7,200 pairs, may be shot only under licence. But squads of marksmen — some apparently employed by landowners with well-stocked rivers or lakes — are tackling "the black plague" by shooting up to 52 birds in three-hour culls. Licensed shooters are allowed to kill six a season.

One lake owner in southern England told *The Times* yesterday: "Cormorants are a weed and need to be taken out."

Official angling organisations, which want the bird's protection to be lifted so that it can be shot on sight like crows, have nevertheless condemned the shooting, fearing that members could become the target of radical animal rights groups. Derek Rose, chairman of the National Federation of Anglers' Fisheries Committee, said: "From a fisheries point of view the only good cormorant is a dead one... and we understand the frustration of people. But we cannot condone anyone breaking the law."

The existence of cormorant hit squads was disclosed in yesterday's *Angling Times*, which backs the action. In a report headlined "These Birds Must Be Killed", the magazine showed a photograph of a masked man next to four dead birds: "This is the picture every angler wants to see: the man, the gun and the cormorant... unless the cormorants are halted, angling faces an inevitable wipe-out."

THESE BIRDS MUST BE KILLED

Blunt message from the *Angling Times*

The magazine also carries an interview with a lake owner on how the birds, which can eat nearly 2lb of fish a day and are said to be taking up to 1,500 tons of fish a year, are being secretly culled. Apart from shooting, militants are putting paracetamol tablets into dead fish near roosting sites to poison the birds. Other methods include putting bait under a float so that a cormorant diving to take the bait is "wound down under the water to drown".

The illicit culling is the latest element of a long-running battle between wildlife groups and anglers, which mirrors the tension between grouse moor owners and bird groups. Anglers say the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is so powerful that it has won the ear of government at the expense of fishermen and fish stocks. But Robin Wynde of

Continued on page 2, col 5
Leading article, page 21

Ministers back Japanese POWs

Ministers have backed calls for some of Japan's biggest firms to pay compensation to thousands of British prisoners of war. Campaigners are pressing for payments of £13,500 for each of the 10,000 survivors. Jeremy Hanley, the Foreign Office minister, insisted that Britain had not "closed the book" on the campaign. Page 2

Teacher 'fought machete attacker'

A court was told yesterday of the bravery of a nursery teacher who shepherded her children to safety while a machete-wielding man attacked the class as they enjoyed a teddy bears' picnic. Horrell Campbell denies seven charges of attempted murder. Page 3

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Labour out to shine on Costa del Sol

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A WHITEWASHED, photogenic town on Spain's Costa del Sol is the latest outpost of the whitewashed, photogenic Labour party.

Nerja (population 15,000) boasts the presence of nearly 1,000 Britons, all soon able to take part in local elections under a new European Union agreement. With this juicy British vote-bank in mind, and under a prospective local tie-up with the Spanish Socialist party, moves are afoot to field Labour candidates at Nerja's municipal elections.

New Labour, of course, has its work cut out in Spain. The Tory outfit for expatriates, Conservatives Abroad, has made "British Spain" its own field. But party workers in Nerja are undaunted, showing an oomph in the face of adversity of which Walworth Road should be proud.

Dorothy Price, a Labour activist who has lived in the Nerja area for "nine happy years", said: "Several natural

Tories have learnt to admire the achievements of Spain's former Socialist Government. They will vote Labour." She did not mean the corruption that flourished under Felipe Gonzalez, but "Spain's marvellous health service".



"Hey Miguel, d'you think there's a chance Nick Scott might come over?"

At 67, Mrs Price has lost none of the firmness that would once have come in handy as an adult education teacher in Oxford. Her name is mentioned by the town council's Socialist opposition leader, Gabriel Bruncano, as a likely Labour candidate.

Senior Bruncano, 42 and Nerja's Mayor from 1987 to 1995, is full of enthusiasm for an *acuerdo*, or deal, saying: "We are very keen to come to an agreement soon. Nerja is a very open-minded city."

The plan is for Labour candidates to stand — as Labour candidates — on the Socialist party's slate at the local elections 1999. "We have so much in common," declares Senior Bruncano. "I am sure that we will have a British councillor or two in 1999. And, frankly, it is entirely possible that there could be a British mayor of Nerja."

British residents, however, are keen to emphasise their "Spanishness". Robert Rob-

erts, a retired manager for Shell who left Morecambe 13 years ago to live in the Costa del Sol, said: "We live together with the Spaniards and try to speak their language. Our concerns are the same as theirs." Asked if he was enthusiastic about Labour councillors in Nerja, and a prospective "Costa del Sol" stakeholder, he retreated cautiously. "I'm too old to get involved in politics, really."

Mr Roberts is 73. Mrs Price, however, is more energetic. "We foreigners want a voice. We have concerns here like rates, roads, lighting on streets. But the real thing is, we live here. So we want to vote and take part in the running of our town."

Lin Golding, the MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, is the star turn of Mrs Price's Labour winter season. She comes to Nerja next month to explain her leader's message — new Labour, new country, and of course new Nerja.

Food poison death toll now seven

A SEVENTH person died yesterday in the Scottish food poisoning outbreak as Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, opened the way for a fatal accident inquiry into the handling of the case.

The man who died was 74 and came from Wishaw. He had attended a pensioners' party on November 17 and was admitted to hospital four days later.

Strathclyde Police are continuing to investigate allegations that the butcher at the centre of the outbreak, John M. Barr and Son, of Wishaw, sold meat for a buffet at an 18th birthday party a day after they had been told to remove all cooked meats from sale. Twenty-two of the guests are showing symptoms of food poisoning.

The total number of cases is now thought to be more than 300, of which 261 are in Lanarkshire.

Millionairess and a first-class dogfight over the US

FROM GILES WHYTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

A MOROCCAN millionairess is suing American Airlines after being tied up by the captain of her New York flight while her dog ran riot in first class.

Marcelle Becker, born in Casablanca but widowed in Los Angeles, planned to travel to the East Coast on July 6 last year in her usual style. She bought one first class seat for herself

and another, by the window, for her miniature Maltese, Dom Perignon. Shaken by an early argument with a stewardess over where to stow the dolly used to carry the dog's cage, Mrs Becker drank a cocktail and dozed off with the help of a sleeping pill, court papers show. She was woken high over the Mid-West to be told Dom Perignon had escaped. Pre-trial affidavits conflict on who was to blame but agree the widow lost her temper

when told to lock the dog back into its cage and place it under a \$2,000 (about £1,200) seat. Offered a glass of conciliatory champagne she reportedly denounced the flight crew as "animal haters". When told the captain would have to be summoned, she told staff what the captain might do.

Captain Edwin Frost strolled aft hoping to defuse the row. Instead he found Mrs Becker "out of control", with Dom Perignon still at large and

"threatening to bite". Asking a stewardess to check that he was not restricting his passenger's blood supply, he bound Mrs Becker's hands behind her back with Dom Perignon's leash and heaved her into an adjoining seat.

Mrs Becker claims the captain bruised her from head to toe, ripped one earring from her ear and broke several of her fingernails. A trial is scheduled for next August.

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When open debate is the way to keep a passionate secret safe



Mrs Peacock: opposed "partial birth abortion"

Sometimes it seems that one way to keep an argument secret is to broadcast it in Parliament, for the time is gone when every good Commons exchange would find its way into the next day's papers. Few were in the press gallery yesterday to hear a short debate between the Yorkshire Mrs Elizabeth Peacock (C, Batley & Spen) and the Welsh Mrs Ann Clwyd (Lab, Cynon Valley); and fewer to report it.

Yet the exchange, lasting 20 minutes, touched the most profound concerns, was courteous and unpartisan on both sides and exposed a memorable disagreement in principle between two rational humans. Those 20 minutes were rivet-

ing. But gruesome. The subject was what Mrs Peacock called "partial birth abortion" and Mrs Clwyd called "intact dilation and evacuation". Mrs Peacock was moving a "Ten Minute Rule Bill" — the notional introduction of a Bill for whose enactment there is no parliamentary time, but whose airing offers a chance for discussion. Mrs Peacock's Bill, which Mrs Clwyd opposed, banned this type of abortion in Britain. The squeamish should stop here. Mrs Peacock explained that "partial birth abortion", common in the US, involved the evacuation and then crushing of the foetus's skull, before extraction, usually beyond 20 weeks' pregnancy. She believed the



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

foetus could suffer pain before death. The procedure was used in some cases where a genetic disorder had been diagnosed late, but also in cases which were "decide" (by choice). Its use in Britain was uncharted, but it was not unlawful — and should be, she thought. She added that there were MPs who had joined the campaign against veal crates but were less interested in protecting the young of their own kind — a crusade she called "pro-life" and Mrs Clwyd later called "anti-

Choice". I recalled that Mrs Clwyd, who believes the foetus may be sacrificed to the mother's needs, has founded a group called Peace and Animal Welfare, to oppose cruel testing on animals. I also recalled that Mrs Peacock, who believes human life is sacred, supports the death penalty and advocates the televised flogging of criminals. The composition of what we might call typical "attitude clusters" in the minds of MPs is intriguing. Mrs Peacock spoke calmly but with passion.

The former Education Secretary John Patten sat close by. He comes rarely to the Chamber now, and nodded earnestly as she spoke. Mrs Clwyd, who was barracked by some of the male anti-abortion lobby, but not by the women, spoke with similar control and the same underlying fierce feeling. She said this method of abortion was not used in Britain so a prohibition was unnecessary. She suspected Mrs Peacock was trying to reopen the whole debate about the 1967 Abortion Act, in the hope of reversing it. Besides, she thought, the choice between methods of abortion should be left to "clinical judgment".

For Mrs Peacock it might be said that a graphic description

of any method of abortion would be gruesome, and one suspected it was all abortion, not just this method, she questioned. Describing a technique of whose use in Britain she offered no evidence was arguably disingenuous. But principle motivated her.

Mrs Clwyd's sincerity was equally clear, but one suspected that her rejection of the Bill on the grounds that the practice was non-existent here was also disingenuous. If it had been in common use, Mrs Clwyd would still have opposed the Bill.

Each side had supporters, but time was up. These debates hardly reach the news. It is to be hoped people know they happen.



Mrs Clwyd: said women had the right to choose

Ministers want top Japanese firms to compensate PoWs

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND DAVID WATTS

THE Government last night took the risk of upsetting Japanese industry by suggesting that Japan's wealthiest companies should pay compensation to thousands of British prisoners of war.

Ministers backed calls for some of Japan's biggest firms, including those already in Britain and would-be investors, to contribute to a charitable foundation to help former PoWs. The Foreign Office abandoned the scheme after Sir Kit McMahon, former deputy governor of the Bank of England, travelled to Japan to urge business support.

Senior Government figures admitted last night that the prospect of widespread support was unlikely but emphasised that Mr Major was taking a keen interest in the issue. Initial reaction from Japanese companies indicated that they did not consider themselves responsible for the war-time actions of firms that no longer exist.

Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, joined calls for a renewed campaign by the Government, saying that the Japanese had not gone far enough to repair past damage. The Prime Minister doesn't regard it as enough. There has been some progress but I don't feel that this has been enough. It needs to be followed by more substantial action.

"I know the difficulties of finding a way. But as a strong

friend and supporter of modern Japan, I believe the search, and it now is an urgent search, for a way for more substantial action needs to continue. There is this bar from the past — a past that is terrible beyond telling for the people who lived through it."

Mr Hanley acknowledged that the Government was constrained in its campaign by the 1951 Treaty of San Francisco which formally brought peace and under which the Japanese government paid compensation to British POWs. Each former POW was paid £72.50 — almost £1,000 today — plus a further £3 for those who worked on the Burma Railway, and officials say that any re-opening of the compensation debate would initiate a flood of claims from literally millions of Chinese, Koreans and Taiwanese. Like their Korean and Chinese counterparts Britons were compelled to work in coal mines and shipyards throughout the then Japanese empire.

Almost all the Japanese companies now trading in Britain were formed post-war and argue that they are making a bigger contribution by creating employment.

However, the renewed pressure comes less than two years

after John Major wrote to the Japanese Prime Minister to register concern after Japanese industry refused to contribute towards a charitable foundation to help former PoWs. The Foreign Office abandoned the scheme after Sir Kit McMahon, former deputy governor of the Bank of England, travelled to Japan to urge business support.

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"I know the difficulties of finding a way. But as a strong



British soldiers freed from camps in Burma in May 1945

Rebel list poses threat to Tories' currency pledge

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TORY Euro-sceptics are canvassing a plan that would challenge the party's election manifesto pledge to leave open the options on a single currency.

The idea of publishing a rebel list of MPs and candidates committed to voting against single currency entry was gaining ground at Westminster yesterday as ministers and MPs continued to voice dismay over John Major's decision to rule out any change of policy up to and during the election.

A new poll suggested yesterday that a big majority of voters would vote against a single currency if a referendum were held now.

The aim of the rebel plan would be to make plain to voters, even if the manifesto did not, that a Conservative government would be unable to take Britain into a single currency even if the Cabinet decided in the next Parliament that it would be right to go in. It would be evidence of a "blocking majority" on the Conservative backbenches.

Although the list would be proof of a split party, and would provide valuable ammunition to Labour, some sceptics believe it is the only way of getting across the message that the Conservative Party generally is opposed to a single currency.

The move would amount to

open defiance of the Government line. "Some us believe that the time has come to take the law into our own hands," a prominent MP said last night.

At a meeting of Euro-sceptics on Tuesday night, soon after Mr Major followed Michael Heseltine in ruling out a policy U-turn, one MP after another were reported to have claimed that the Prime Minister had thrown away one of the few remaining Tory cards for winning the election.

Mr Major himself was tackled head-on by a group of MPs when he visited the Commons tea-room shortly after his declaration.

The issue is certain to resurface next week when the Commons holds a two-day debate on Europe. Last night Labour was trying to ensure that the motion taking note of the single currency preparation documents that caused a furore two weeks ago should be voted on at the end of the debate.

The MORI poll for The

European suggested yesterday that 64 per cent of electors would vote against participation in a single currency if a referendum were held now. The survey also showed that 54 per cent of voters wanted a referendum on whether Britain should stay in the EU.

Robert Scheffing, page 20

Supplies of blood at lowest ever

Hospitals in London and the South-East were told to strict their use of blood transfusions because supplies have fallen to their lowest level ever. Dr Mary Brennan, director of donor services for the area from Norwich to Brighton, said stocks were down to half a day's supply on Tuesday and seven-tenths yesterday. Supplies of O-positive, the most common group, were down to 795 units compared with a normal level of 1,500 units. Blood stocks traditionally fall by up to 30 per cent over Christmas but this year a fall of that size could trigger difficulties. New donors can phone 0181 672 2222 to enrol.

Blair promises to act for homeless

Tony Blair pledged to reverse a key element of the 1996 Housing Act that removed obligation on local councils to provide permanent accommodation to homeless families. It would be changed if Labour was elected.

In a speech for Shelter's 30th anniversary he said: "It will simply force more people into the revolving door of bed and breakfast and other unsuitable accommodation."

Top Flat jockey goes missing

Ray Cochrane, 39, a leading Flat jockey, has been missing from his home for ten days after packing a bag with clothes and his racing gear and leaving his home in Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire in his C registration Volvo 740 estate car.

His wife Anne reported him missing when he failed to return. However, she asked that no public appeal be made to trace him.

School security to be tightened

Ministers agreed to make it easier to close public rights of way through school grounds if governors believed pupils were at risk. Concerned by recent attacks, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, pledged to make £66 million available for improved security, including measures to give police greater powers of arrest by tightening the law on intruders in schools.

Lawyers to help end divorce wars

Some 1,000 divorce lawyers are to be recruited and offered training in mediation under an initiative backed by the Lord Chancellor to end divorce as a legal battleground. The initiative, launched jointly by Relate, the counselling agency, and the National Solicitors' Network, an association of 250 law firms, seeks to promote a culture of conciliation in line with the Government's divorce reforms.

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Howard urges applicants to declare Masonic links

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Home Secretary has asked potential members of the new Criminal Cases Review Authority to declare whether they are Freemasons.

The move reflects government embarrassment earlier this year when it was disclosed that Sir Frederick Crawford, the chairman of the new authority, was a Royal Arch Freemason.

The practice is almost certain to be applied to other sensitive appointments in future. The Home Office shift in policy was disclosed yesterday during a hearing of the Commons public services committee.

Last night the Home Office confirmed that it had asked applicants to identify any conflicts of interest that could arise with membership of the new authority. Mr Howard wants to appoint a further 11 members and recruit a staff of 60 for the new body to review miscarriages of justice. It will be set up in the new year.

A note sent to applicants before they completed their forms reads: "It is essential that in discharging its responsibilities the commission should have the full confidence of the public. According-

ly, all those who are being considered for appointment to the commission are asked to indicate whether there is anything in their background or previous experience, professional or personal (including membership of the Freemasons or any similar organisation), which, were it to become known, might affect public confidence in their ability to carry out their tasks as a member of the commission."

The change was disclosed by John Gurnell, Labour MP for Leeds South and Morley. He asked Sir Len Peach, the Public Appointments Commissioner, giving evidence before the committee yesterday, to give his views on such vetting. Sir Len, a former

chairman of the Police Complaints Authority, said he did not believe Freemasons should be disqualified from public office, but said it was important to know about such links to ensure there were no conflicts of interest.

His views complement the Home Office note, which states: "The making of such a declaration will not in itself be a bar to appointment. This is simply information which ministers will wish to be aware of when considering candidates." He said he had discussed the matter with Richard Wilson, Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, after the controversy over Sir Frederick's appointment.

Sir Len said he did not believe, however, that conflicts of interest should be listed in any formalised way. It was equally important, for example, to know if there were any potential conflicts between the role of a husband and wife.

The Commons Home Affairs Select Committee is to examine the extent of Freemasonry in the police and the judiciary in the new year.

Sir Len also told MPs that he intended to study appointments in which ministers recommended individuals, to ensure they were not getting preferential consideration.

Secret cormorant cull

Continued from page 1
The RSPB disputed claims that the cormorant was devastating fish stocks. He said the society would consider its position when a three-year study of the birds ends in 1998. The ministry-funded study is also looking at ways of scaring off cormorants with birds of prey or laser guns that shine beams of light.

Julian Pettifer, the broadcaster who is both president of the RSPB and an angler, condemned the *Angling Times*, saying the cormorant had the right to share the resources of Britain's rivers and lakes. "What they have published is absolutely disgraceful. They really should not encourage people to break the law. You have to be used to the idea that you share the

river with a lot of other animals."

Mr Pettifer was backed by Alan Clark, the former defence minister who referred in his *Diaries* to his sadness at having to shoot a heron. "The cormorant is a protected bird," he said. "You can't shoot a protected bird to make your hobby more congenial. Their motives are purely to protect their status of predator against others. They feel someone like the cormorant doing it better than they do should not be allowed to."

But Richard Lee, news editor of the magazine, defended its stance, saying: "So what? It's time to take the gloves off to save our sport. Cormorants do devastate fisheries. They are wiping out water after water."

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Machete himself

Terrified child

lost an fight wife

Police from c

Quiz team uni

Weapon used to wound infant schoolchildren was inscribed with references to the Devil

Machete attacker 'likened himself to mass killers'

BY RICHARD DUCE

A MACHETE-WIELDING attacker likened himself to the killers Thomas Hamilton and Michael Bryant after he ran amok in a class of nursery children as they enjoyed a teddy bears' picnic. A jury was told yesterday.

Horrett Campbell, 33, injured three children and four adults as he slashed out with the two-foot long blade on which he had inscribed "666 marks the devil".

But for the bravery of nursery teacher Lisa Potts, 21, who helped terrified children get back inside school while being attacked by Campbell, "this tragedy could have been so much worse", Richard Wakerley, QC, for the prosecution, told Stafford Crown Court.

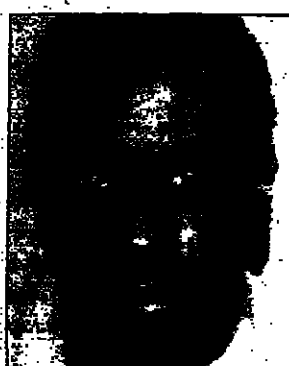
Campbell, who lived in a tower block overlooking St Luke's infants school in Wolverhampton, denies seven charges of attempted murder. He has admitted six charges of causing grievous bodily harm and one of attempted grievous

bodily harm. Mr Wakerley said that police who searched Campbell's flat found two newspaper cuttings on his bedroom wall, one about Michael Bryant, who killed 35 people in Tasmania, and the other about Thomas Hamilton, the Dunblane killer. A heart and a cupid's arrow were drawn by the picture of Michael Bryant.

Mr Wakerley said it appeared to be a copycat crime. Campbell told police they, like him, had been wrongly criticised by society. Campbell also allegedly said he embarked on the attack because young children had jeered at him when he walked past.

His response was to enter the school grounds where he "attacked three young children who were aged three or four, three mothers who were outside the school simply waiting for their children to come out and a nursery nurse employed at the school."

"The attack was indiscriminate. He struck the seven of



Campbell kept cuttings on Thomas Hamilton

them mainly about the head, face and upper body, some more than once and some when they were on the ground having been hit. You will not be surprised to learn that most sustained really severe injuries. Fortunately, all of them survived, but the prosecution say that at the time he intended to kill."

The injured were: Ahmed Malek, three; Renna Kaur-Chopra and Francesca Quintyne, both four; Renna's

mother, Surinder Kaur-Chopra; Azra Rafiq, a parent; Wendy Willington, 29; and Miss Potts.

Mr Wakerley said 20 children had gathered in the school grounds for the picnic, with parents arriving to collect them at 3pm. At 3.10 pm Campbell left his flat carrying a light bag which held a machete, another large knife and a washing-up liquid bottle containing petrol. There were also two bars with sponges attached which could be used as "a sort of fire bomb". He had also donned a deerstalker hat with Iron Crosses drawn on it, giving it the appearance of a German helmet.

On one side of the machete was written the words "You filthy devil" and "666 marks the devil", and on the other side "666, Horns, Devil".

Taking the machete, he went up to Azra Rafiq and Surinder Kaur-Chopra, and struck them on the head from behind. Mrs Rafiq suffered a two-and-a-half inch cut along the scalp and Mrs Kaur-Chopra blacked out but was

not badly injured. He then ran towards another mother, Wendy Willington, who was waiting with her young child. She suffered serious head injuries as she threw herself to protect her son, Antonio.

Miss Potts was trying to get children to the safety of the school building as Campbell stepped over the fence towards her, striking Ahmed Malek and leaving him with deep cuts to the arm and head. He also struck out at Renna Kaur-Chopra, slicing her across the side of her face.

As Miss Potts tried to bring children inside, Campbell struck out at Francesca Quintyne, cutting off part of her ear and breaking her jaw.

In interviews, Campbell allegedly told police he feared being prosecuted for driving while disqualified and added: "If I get sent down for that I am going to go to prison for something worthwhile."

"I just wanted to hurt them. I thought I would hurt them pretty badly depending where they were hit."

The case continues.



Lisa Potts arriving at court. The judge praised her bravery in defending children

Terrified children hid under nurse's skirt

BY RICHARD DUCE

LISA POTTS, the nursery nurse who came face to face with Horrett Campbell as he lashed out with a machete, described yesterday how terrified children clung to her as she tried to lead them to safety.

Miss Potts, 21, agreed to take hold of the blood-stained weapon to demonstrate how Campbell used an overarm cutting motion when striking the face of a four-year-old girl. After describing Campbell's attack on parents outside the school, Miss Potts told the jury that he came towards her with his "lips drawn back in an evil grimace."

"I was trying to gather the children up. It was crazy from then on. Some were holding on to my skirt and some of them went underneath. They were hiding with fright. I started running, but the children to try to get into the



The child victims from left, Renna Chopra, Ahmed Malek and Francesca Quintyne



nursery door but before I knew it the man was in front of me and came at me with the machete.

"I put up my arm to protect my face and he lashed out at me. As I started to run in with lots of children around me, he lashed out at one of them, straight across the face. I got inside the nursery and dropped the children, and as I

went to shut the door his foot was in it and he was inside. "I pushed one of the children into the dressing-up area behind the door and put my arms around the others in front of me as he attacked me again. He started attacking my back. I think he hit me twice."

"I ran around the side of the water tray in the nursery and I then felt the blow on the head. That's the one I felt the most."

She said that Campbell had used blows of "great force" as he lashed out at the children. It was only when the children had reached safety that she realised she was covered in blood. The court was told that she had suffered a 6cm cut to her head which had broken

bone from her skull. Cuts to her back went down to her ribcage and the tendons in her arm and hands had been severed.

Holding the wooden handle of the machete, using a plastic glove, Miss Potts demonstrated the overarm slashing movement that Campbell used on Francesca Quintyne's face. The girl suffered a broken jaw and lost her lower ear lobe.

At the end of her evidence, Mr Justice Sedley thanked Miss Potts and paid tribute to her courage. "Your conduct was very brave indeed. I am sure you would say it was no more than any teacher or nursery nurse would have done. You may well be right. If so, it is a tribute to that profession which it well deserves."

"The real tribute is deserved by you. You acted with great unselfishness and I want that to be acknowledged."

Man lost an eye in fight over wife

BY PAUL WILKINSON

WHEN two middle-aged pillars of society brawled in public over a woman — "an ancient story in the history of mankind" — one was hit so hard that he was blinded in one eye, a court was told yesterday.

The altercation, on the streets of the North Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate in September last year, was between the woman's lover, a magistrate, and her husband, a senior civil servant. The husband, Stephen John Coles, 48, denies causing grievous bodily harm to Tim Burrell, 49, outside the home Mr Burrell had bought for Jill Coles, 42.

Andrew Clarkson, for the prosecution, told York Crown Court that Mr Burrell's right eye was burst open by a single punch. Surgeons inserted 46 stitches but were unable to save his sight.

Mr Clarkson said: "This is an ancient story in the history of mankind and involves a matrimonial breakdown. It is not uncommon."

The case continues.

Police seize guns from campaigner

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE leader of a gun lobby group last night accused police of harassment after they seized all 200 weapons and 20,000 rounds of ammunition from his firearms business.

Police revoked licences for Richard Law to hold firearms and shotguns or to deal in firearms during the raid at his firing range at Llwyn-draen, Pembrokeshire, which has Home Office approval. Mr Law, 44, national secretary of the Shooters' Rights Association, said: "It does rather smack of harassment. This is an attempt to break the gun lobby."

"There is a connection that this happened the day before the report stage of the firearms Bill. We went through exactly the same process at almost exactly the same stage in the last Bill. Without the tools of my trade, I have signed on the dot."

Among the weapons seized were pistols, rifles, shotguns, antique guns and swords. Mr Law said that a computer and files were also removed. The premises were searched by 24

officers on Tuesday and he was arrested three hours later in connection with another incident. He was released on bail to return to his local police station on February 10.

Dyfed Powys police confirmed a raid had taken place. They added: "As a result, a number of firearms and deal-related certificates connected with the premises have been revoked and all weapons and ammunition at the premises have been removed by the police."

"As a result of the police action, a 44-year-old man has been arrested and was detained at Carmarthen police station in relation to a number of firearms-related matters". A spokesman denied there was a campaign against Mr Law.

□ An attempt by Tory backbenchers to widen compensation provided by the Firearms (Amendment) Bill was defeated in the Commons last night. Their call for dealers and clubs to receive compensation after the partial ban on handguns, in addition to gun owners, was defeated by 299 votes to 113.

Poll backs traditional male ride

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

TRADITIONALISTS in the Borders town of Hawick were heading for victory yesterday in a poll over whether to keep its Common Riding celebration all-male, amid claims of dirty tricks and a rigged referendum.

Supporters of two women who were refused permission to take part in the commemoration of a 1514 victory over the English have boycotted the poll, claiming the question, set by the all-male committee, was heavily loaded against them.

They said the women, Mandy Graham, 21, and Ashley Simpson, 23, had asked permission to join only three of the 16 ride-outs which dominate town life during June. But the question asked whether women should be allowed to join all of them.

Whatever the result, the women, backed by the Lady Riders' Association and the Equal Opportunities Commission, are suing the members of the Common Riding Committee, which organises the event, for sexual discrimination.

Quiz team universally challenged

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

IT WAS enough to make even Jeremy Paxman attempt a show of compassion: four bright students lined up on University Challenge for total humiliation.

In the swots' corner was the Manchester University team, captained by Stephen Pearson, a trivia whizz-kid. In the dunces' corner was Birkbeck College, who proceeded to suffer the worst defeat since the BBC show began in 1962. Birkbeck could scrape only 40 points to Manchester's 360.

Their trouncing moved Paxman to say last night: "I just felt so sorry for them, poor things. I kept peeling back the cards desperate for a question they could answer, but they couldn't. It was awful. They never got into their stride but they were up against a team captain who obviously reads a dictionary



Paxman: "I just felt so sorry for them"

in bed." Paxman was not even able to console the losers in the Green Room afterwards. "They sloped off without coming for a drink. I'm afraid," he said.

Yesterday, as the team attempted to live down their shame, Lady Blackstone, the Master of Birkbeck College,

in London, appeared to make matters worse by releasing a statement saying the defeat did not reflect on other students. "I am very sorry that the Birkbeck team did not do very well but it is no reflection on the extraordinarily able and highly motivated students who study here," she said.

David Allen, 43, Birkbeck's team captain and a maths, statistics and computer student, said from his home in Mitcham, south London: "The other team were unbelievably fast. People were missing questions they later said they could have answered. But they were shell-shocked. It was a pretty horrible experience to go through."

Mr Allen, who is a trade union worker, said he had selected the team through the student union but, because of pressing deadlines, took the

first students who responded to posters placed around the college.

During the quiz, which was shown on Tuesday evening, Mr Allen had appeared speechless as Manchester repeatedly cut in to answer questions correctly. Mr Paxman only managed to say "What's the adjective that links September 16, 1992..." before the Manchester captain leapt in with "black", as in Black Monday, or Black Wednesday.

When Birkbeck finally answered a question correctly there was a cry of relief from the audience. A BBC source suggested that, because Birkbeck's team was made up of mature students, they had slower responses. However, Birkbeck had performed well in preliminary rounds and were ranked among the 24 best teams in the country.

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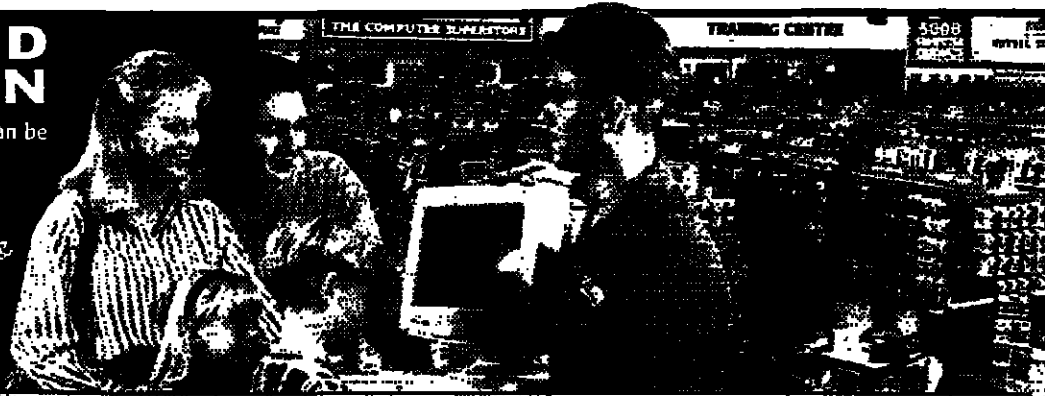
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Office party cases promise lawyers a happy new year

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

TOO much Christmas party spirit in the office will lead to acrimonious disputes in the new year, say lawyers. They expect a growing number of employees to be disciplined for riotous behaviour at company celebrations and then in turn to sue their employers.

The warning comes as a survey of managers shows that more companies are planning expensive celebrations than at any time since the 1980s. In the last such survey in 1994, more than half the respondents said their parties would be less imaginative than in the 1980s, 56 per cent said less money would be

spent and 45 per cent said they would be less intoxicated.

This year 44 per cent told Reed Personnel Services that their celebrations would be more expensive, with 35 per cent planning more imaginative occasions and 40 per cent set on getting drunker than they did in the 1980s.

Martin Hopkins, head of the employment law division at the Birmingham branch of the solicitors Eversheds, said the firm was expecting an increase in cases arising from office parties. "If you put your employees in a confined space and add huge quantities of free booze, you are asking for

trouble. Employers are only just beginning to wake up to the fact that Christmas parties are an accident waiting to happen for everybody." Mr Hopkins expects his firm alone to handle between 50 and 70 such cases next year as public awareness of the legal processes grows.

A junior female employee at a small engineering firm brought a claim for constructive dismissal when she resigned after being caught with a senior member of the company having intercourse on the bonnet of his car. She settled out of court for a five-figure sum.

A couple discovered having sex under a table at an office party were dismissed but the woman said she had not been a willing party to the misdemeanour and claimed unfair dismissal. She withdrew her claim after solicitors gathered witness statements that contradicted her.

The settings for such indiscretions are becoming more imaginative, as companies spend up to £50,000 for parties at novel venues which make the traditional charms of the Natural History Museum or the National Portrait Gallery look a little sober.

"We have almost doubled the number of parties we did last year," said Caroline Armstrong-Jones, who with her husband Peregrine, Lord Snowden's half-brother, runs Bentley's Entertainment, catering for corporate and private parties. "We are looking for new venues all the time because clients want something innovative." Her search this year has extended to the Whitechapel Gallery in the East End of London.

Increasing numbers of companies are having giant themed parties. A firm can hire a whole venue or share it with others. Planet Events' nightly Venetian Masquerade, including dodgem cars and funfair rides, at Spitalfields market in London, is fully booked.

Drugs campaign warns: don't mix it

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE first campaign to warn young clubgoers of the dangers of mixing drugs at Christmas parties is launched today. It increases telephone inquiries to the National Drugs Helpline, the Health Education Authority campaign could become an annual event, like the seasonal blitz on drinking and driving.

The authority denies it is encouraging the use of Ecstasy, LSD and speed with advertisements that spell out the risks of mixing drugs. Officials believe that, as the majority of people in their early twenties have taken a drug, providing information is better than telling them to stop.

"People are more likely to take drugs at Christmas, especially if they have had a drink, because their inhibitions are lowered," a spokesman for the authority said. "They are more likely to experiment, whereas if they were sober they would steer clear."

The advertisements appear in the glossy magazines *The Face*, *DJ Magazine*, *ID*, *Muzik* and *MidMag*. There

will also be posters available at bars, clubs and shops, and radio advertisements.

The publicity is an extension of the successful Know The Score campaign launched in February, which has produced 1,000 calls a day to the 24-hour helpline. Many of the callers are friends and parents, as well as drug users.

The magazine advertisements show a girl with parts of her body cut away to reveal the internal organs that can be harmed by mixing drugs. They warn, for example, that a mixture of alcohol and Ecstasy can cause dehydration. "To combat this, sip about a pint of non-alcoholic liquid an hour to replace lost fluids. Include fruit juices and energy drinks to keep sodium levels up. Remember to chill out."

The authority is responding to a survey last year which found that 60 per cent of people between 20 and 22 had used a drug. Among recent users, 66 per cent had used a combination of substances. The National Drugs Helpline: 0800 776600



Support group: from left to right, Collins, Jaffe, Taylor Bradford, Goldsmith, Jong, Rivers, Friday, Janowitz and a cut-out Princess

Novelists see Princess romancing the throne

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

DIANA, Princess of Wales, should go to Mongolia, smear herself in yak butter and find a chieftain who is good with camels — just one of the more ludicrous sequels plotted by leading "romance" writers when they gathered in a smart New York club to propound their visions of the Princess's future.

Plagiarism — and ageing, in the

authors' stretching facelifts — was never far away. Tania Janowitz, who wrote *Slaves of New York* and proposed the Mongolian adventure, was surely borrowing from Paul Bowles's *The Sheltering Sky*.

Olivia Goldsmith, of *The First Wives Club* fame, said she would have the Princess take up a \$60 million (£36 million)-a-year career as a chat-show host on American television (the figure is not entirely unrealistic).

"She could rival Oprah Winfrey," she said. Barbara Taylor Bradford ruled out remarriage: "I would have her wait for Prince William to ascend the throne, when she could take her revenge and he could give her back her HRH."

The sex chronicler Nancy Friday thought the Princess might find a new man — possibly the billionaire Bill Gates — on the Internet, while Jackie Collins, of Hollywood and the Home

Counties, proposed: "She should take a female lover and wait for her son to become king." Erica Jong (*Fear of Flying*) opted for the "fireworks" of her meeting "a potent man". The feminist in her added: "That's the problem with men — they're all impotent."

The women agreed on one thing: the Princess's salvation coming from Prince William. "The only one you can trust — your son," they sighed, a chorus in search of a happy ending.

Pregnant McAliskey remanded to men's prison

BY STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE pregnant daughter of the former nationalist MP Bernadette McAliskey was refused bail yesterday and remanded as the only woman in a men's high-security prison.

Roisin McAliskey, 25, is facing extradition on charges of attempted murder and possession of explosives linked to an IRA mortar attack on an army base at Osnabrück, Germany, in June.

At Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday, Ronald Bartle, the stipendiary magistrate, rejected a request from Miss McAliskey's lawyer that she be bailed because of her difficult pregnancy and the "shocking" conditions in prison. He remanded her until December 13.

Gareth Peirce, for Miss McAliskey, said that she had been moved from Holloway to Belmarsh prison, where she was in a separate cell behind a cage in a block with 70 men. The cell had been "disgusting" and she had had to clean it herself. During extreme periods she was subjected to humiliating comments.

Miss McAliskey, who is 4½ months pregnant, was losing weight but the prison doctor had told her that she could not be sent to hospital. Mrs Peirce said she had not been given an obstetric examination.

Arvinder Samra, for the German Government, opposed bail, saying there was a high risk that she would abscond. Miss Samra said that two of Miss McAliskey's fingerprints had been found at a holiday home rented by an IRA gang. A witness had identified her from a photograph.

Outside court Miss McAliskey's mother said that she had been unable to visit her daughter at Belmarsh because visits for male inmates took precedence. "I have failed to be surprised at the racism and inhumanity of the British state."

A Prison Service spokesman said: "She is in a discreet self-contained area in the prison and she sees a doctor daily."



Bernadette McAliskey outside court yesterday

Probation for teenage heroin smuggler

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE trial in Italy of a 17-year-old Briton on heroin smuggling charges was suspended yesterday when the judge ordered her to serve a period of probation. Marianne Platt from Croydon, south London, faces community work or work-study in Italy when the sentence is announced on February 5.

Legal sources said magistrates had concluded that Platt had been manipulated and

was not fully aware of the smuggling operation or its serious consequences. Platt, who attended the hearing with her mother, Jackie King, was arrested in June at Caserta, near Naples, with Melanie Jackman, 19, from Brighton.

Jackman is being held on remand in a women's prison in Naples, while Platt is at a penal institution for minors in Rome. They were arrested while meeting a known smuggler after arriving in Italy on a flight from Istanbul. Police said they were carrying

a holdall with a secret compartment containing four kilograms of pure heroin with a street value of nearly £500,000. Jackman told her father that she thought she was carrying money for a man she met on Brighton pier.

Susanna Spaford, for the defence, said Platt should be able to return to a "normal life" once the probation period was completed. "Marianne accepted probation because this way there will be no further consequences for her in her future life."



Platt trial suspended

Tesco is cream of the puddings

BY ROBIN YOUNG

TESCO'S Christmas pudding makes mince of pricier competition from Harrods and Fortnum & Mason, according to *Which?*, the Consumers' Association magazine. More than 60 tasters were asked to try 20 puddings. The only homemade recipe was from Della Smith. It fared poorly despite being inexpensive at £1.09 for 454g (1lb), and

the overall verdict was "very stodgy — a dull flavour".

By contrast, the top-scoring Connoisseur Selection with cognac and rum, from Tesco, was judged "fruity, moist, with good flavours of nuts and lots of alcohol". It costs £4.99 for 454g and was, the *Which?* report says, "altogether more luxurious and more traditional" than its rivals.

Six other puddings were rated above average. Marks &

Spencer Traditional, £2.99 for 454g; Sainsbury's Rich Fruit, £2.09; Asda Luxury, £3.29; Marks & Spencer Connoisseur, £4.99; Safeway Connoisseur with cognac, £4.39; and Sainsbury's Connoisseur, £4.49. The Harrods Super Luxury pudding was the most costly, at £6.60 for 454g, but was praised only for "good taste of alcohol". Fortnum & Mason's Traditional (£4.95) had a "very unusual taste".

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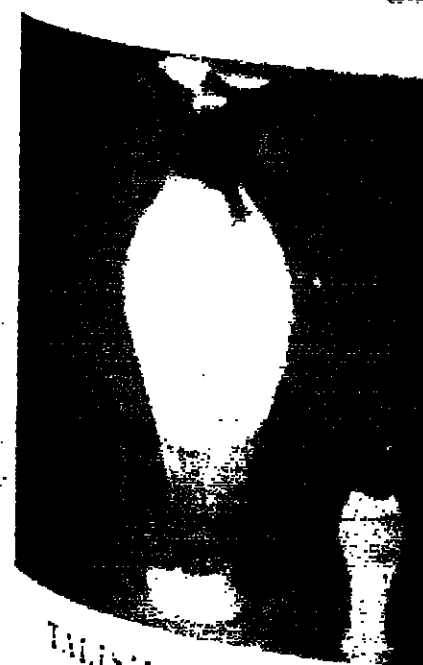
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SCENTS
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TALINIAN ISLANDS

Harrods

Mrs Crumpacker lost in space on the 5.50 to Paris

By ALAN HAMILTON, JONATHAN PRYNN AND TIM JONES

MRS Marvel Crumpacker of Fort Wayne, Indiana, did not entirely grasp the significance of the moment when she and her daughter boarded the Eurostar train for Paris in the predawn dark of Ashford, Kent, yesterday morning.

Midwest Americans are the most delightful of people and the most adventurous of travellers, but they are not always entirely *au fait* with world events beyond their state line. Mrs Crumpacker, 58, and her daughter, Denise Bourers, 35, had seen Tom Cruise speed through the Channel Tunnel in the climax of *Mission: Impossible* and merely wished to visit Paris by way of this engineering miracle.

Unaware that they had stepped aboard the first passenger train to run

through the tunnel since the fire 16 days ago, they were pleasantly shocked to find that, as the only two genuine customers on the 5.50am from Waterloo, they were presented with champagne by a crew which outnumbered them by seven to one.

The only other travellers on a train designed to take 800 were a Eurostar public relations official and 20 journalists, who fell upon the bemused Mrs Crumpacker and her daughter and interviewed them severely.

"I don't feel at all anxious. I am just excited to be going to Paris, and using the Channel Tunnel is part of the excitement. We went to Bruges yesterday by ferry, but that isn't the same," Mrs Crumpacker said. Their moment of

history ended when the train stopped at Calais; the passenger complement was doubled when two more customers got on, one an SNCF worker.

Matters had improved somewhat by the next departure, the 7.53, whose 18 genuine passengers at least outnumbered the press contingent. The fare-paying pioneers were rewarded with automatic upgrade to first class, free champagne and a quarter-bottle of beaufort nouveau, an unlikely candidate for next year's edition of *The Guinness Book of Bribes*.

As the train trundled through the Kent countryside John Townsend, the headline Euro-sceptic Tory MP for Bridlington, on his way to a meeting of European parliamentarians, was tucking into his free plonk with gusto. He said he had no qualms at all about catching the train, despite the safety concerns expressed by some of his colleagues. "To be honest, I'm more concerned about bombs on the Paris underground," he said.

As the train slowed to a cautious 60mph for its passage through the tunnel for what the announcer euphemistically described as "essential engineering work", passengers looked in vain for the fire damage. They were passing through the unaffected



Marvel Crumpacker and her daughter, Denise, enjoy the splendid isolation of Eurostar's first train yesterday

north tunnel; the fire occurred in the south tunnel.

Several passengers had taken the train after hearing on the previous night's television news that passenger services were to be restored. Sharon Haydn, 38, a bank credit risk manager from Kent, had no fears about the journey. "Probably the safest time to go back is the first time after a disaster," she said.

Eurostar claimed yesterday that trains this weekend were already 90 per cent booked, and that only 5 per cent of

bookings had been cancelled because of the fire.

The only incident on the 7.53 was the clinking of glasses, and the only worry was that the drink might run out. The train arrived at Gare du Nord two minutes early. By yesterday afternoon passenger loads were climbing back towards three figures as word got around that the tunnel was back in business.

Eurostar rejected accusations that it was putting profit before safety by resuming passenger services so soon.

Adam Mills, deputy chairman, said he was satisfied that every safety precaution was in place and that passengers faced no risk. "As a responsible transport operator we would never put profit before passenger safety. If we did so it would be an absolute disaster and there would be no passengers to carry."

His assurances cut no ice with Ken Cameron of the Fire Brigades Union, who said it was "an absolute disgrace" that services had been resumed while damage was still

being repaired. "It reminds me of when the tunnel first opened. The concerns our members expressed then about safety were ignored."

In an effort to regain passengers from the ferries, Eurostar is planning special offers, including free tickets to Disneyland Paris, and a 69p return fare to Paris compared with the usual cost of more than £150. Mrs Crumpacker and her daughter may yet be tempted to return.

Photograph, page 24



Tunnel vision: Tom Cruise in *Mission: Impossible*

Nomads use satellites to find grazing

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Bedouin nomads of Saudi Arabia are finding suitable pasture for their flocks with the aid of satellite technology. Two satellites and a video system carried on an aircraft are being used to provide them with the information needed to find sustainable grazing land.

The information gathered by Saudi Arabia's Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration, Abdulrahman al-Gain, its president, told *New Scientist* that the data allowed nomads to increase their incomes while at the same time lowering pressure on fragile soils.

The data came from a radiometer on one satellite which provided daily information on ground vegetation, supplemented by pictures taken by the Landsat satellite. A third source was an aircraft fitted with a video camera.

Gallery blows the whistle on Cantona

By PAUL WILKINSON

A YOUNG artist given the opportunity of painting the portrait of a maker of British history for the National Portrait Gallery has been told that the Manchester United captain, Eric Cantona, would not be a suitable subject. Instead, James Hague has had to settle for Michael Caine, his second choice.

Last night Tony Banks, the Labour MP, dismissed gallery officials as "out-of-touch middle-class snobs". He has gone so far as to table a Commons motion condemning them.

Mr Hague, who is studying in Paris after completing a course at the University of Northumbria, won the chance to paint the personality of his choice when he beat 800 entrants to take the BP Portrait Award last summer. He also collected a £10,000 prize.

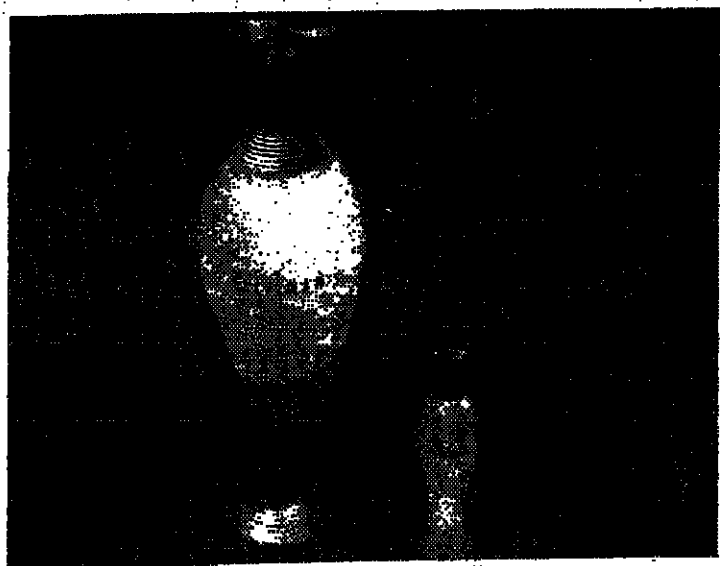
"I am not a football fan but I suggested Eric Cantona because he has such an interesting face, full of character

and enigma," he said. "I was a bit taken aback when I was told that they didn't want him and I should choose somebody else."

The gallery has 9,000 portraits dating back to Elizabeth I. Many are of politicians and royalty. A spokeswoman said: "To have your picture hanging in the gallery you have to have been a maker of British history. The trustees are not sure Eric Cantona will turn out to be that." Michael Caine was seen as somebody who had stood the test of time and would remain famous.

Mr Banks, MP for Newham North West, does not agree. His motion says: "The artist trustees should realise that [Cantona] is a player much admired around the world by large numbers of football supporters. His claim to a place in the National Portrait Gallery is far stronger than the obscure nonentities currently on display."

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Unions fall out over Ford racism dispute

By BILL FROST AND
STEPHEN FARRELL

BILL MORRIS, the general secretary of the Transport and General Workers union, yesterday accused the Ford Motor Company and another union of compromising with racism.

At the centre of the dispute are 300 Ford lorry drivers at Dagenham, who are paid £30,000 a year. Two per cent are from ethnic minorities, compared with 40-45 per cent in other sections. The T&G has taken Ford to an industrial tribunal to fight the cases of seven black workers refused jobs in the lorry fleet. Meanwhile, the drivers have dissolved their T&G branch and applied to join the United Road Transport Union.

Mr Morris, speaking on Radio 4's *Today* programme, accused David Higginbottom, leader of the URTU, of "compromising with racism". Mr Higginbottom denied poaching the T&G members. Mr Morris, whose members are in the majority at Dagenham, described Ford as "the villain of the piece... putting production before principle".

The drivers deliver Ford parts across Britain and western Europe. In recognition of their importance, they have been allowed considerable influence in the choice of new recruits. Transport House sources alleged that that meant "jobs being passed from father to son, brother,



Bill Morris clashed with union rival David Higginbottom

cousin or friend, just like in the bad old days of the docks and the print industry.

"The truck fleet is an example of entrenched, institutionalised racism. The T&G has an obligation to its members and the principles of natural justice to fight that to the bitter end."

Mr Higginbottom said last night that a transcript of the *Today* item was to be played to his union's lawyers. "We are looking at the legal implications of this — we cannot have these allegations repeated."

Last night Mr Morris called on the TUC to intervene in a wrangle "which brought the trade union movement into disrepute, particularly in the eyes of black people".

Attempts by Mr Higginbottom's union to recruit his members were a breach of inter-union procedures, he said.

Mr Higginbottom said the lorry drivers' grievances had nothing to do with racism. "Relations between the men and their plant T&G officer have broken down, so they approached us."

"The sad slur made by Mr Morris is totally unfounded. The reason his members are leaving is not to protect a racist system but because they cannot put up with the current situation any longer."

Other union sources at Dagenham — five represent the 6,800 workforce — suggested last night that there was considerable support for the drivers. They also

claimed that many rank-and-file members of the T&G were "heartily sick of Mr Morris's obsession with racism".

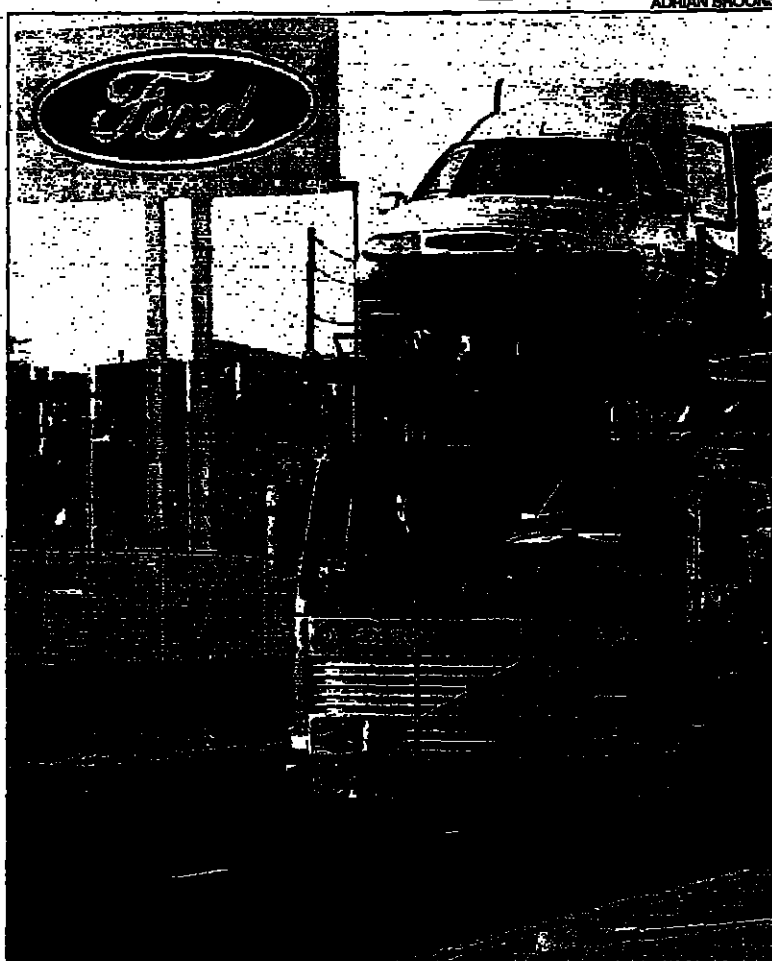
One conveyor, who would not be named, said: "This issue has nothing to do with colour. Some people pass exams and some do not. This is a case of sour grapes which has been whipped up into something far more sinister by the big chiefs at Transport House."

"The reason they [the drivers] want out of the T&G is the problem with their conveyor here — he is of the Left and they are not. The truck fleet are the elite, and rightly recognised as such. If they went on strike, Ford's production would stop in a week or less."

Ford said last night: "At the specific request of the industrial tribunal, we are not making any comment. However, we believe we have a very good record on equal opportunities policy and practice."

This is the second time in a year that Ford has been embroiled in allegations of racism. In February the company apologised and paid compensation to four black workers at Dagenham after white faces were superimposed on their bodies in a sales brochure.

The picture was used in its original form in a 1991 brochure illustrating the company's ethnic diversity. The faces of the four assembly line workers disappeared when the photograph was reused for a sales campaign in Poland.



A delivery lorry leaving the Dagenham plant yesterday

Student hit by police car on 999 call

A student was critically ill in hospital after she was hit by a police car answering an emergency call. Sarah Morgan, 20, was hit as she hailed a taxi in Greenwich, southeast London, on Tuesday night. The 31-year-old driver has been suspended while an investigation is carried out. The call turned out to be a false alarm.

Juniors attack ref

A referee may need plastic surgery after being kicked in the face by players when he abandoned an under-17 game. Alisa Pemberton, 57, was attacked as Farsley Celtic Juniors played Osett Town Juniors in west Yorkshire.

Church vigil

Churchgoers in Southampton are paying a security guard to look after their cars while they worship. Several cars parked outside Wimpson Methodist Church have been vandalised, broken into and had parts stolen.

Drag net

A 5ft 11in woman from Wales was held for three hours by customs officials in Tennessee who insisted she was a drugs smuggler in drag. Bethan Deverell, 20, was freed only when a criminal using her passport number was held.

Return to sender

A man who left an envelope bearing his name and address at the house he broke into was arrested when he returned to get it. Paul Morris, 18, was sentenced to two years' detention for attempted burglary at Havant, Hampshire.

Police damages

A man whose ankle was broken when a policeman put him in a leg lock was awarded £4,500 in damages against Gloucestershire police. A jury at Gloucester County Court found excessive force was used on Dean Jones-Owen, 26.

Coma death



A woman who gave birth to a daughter while in a coma 18 months ago has died in hospital in Swansea. Karen Battenbough, 25, who was pregnant when she was involved in a car crash, never recovered consciousness.

Plans for new SAS base go on public view

By RUSSELL JENKINS

PLANS showing the layout of a new base for the SAS have been made available to the public through local councils.

The outline plans for the site at Credenhill, six miles from Hereford, were sent as part of an application for planning permission to South Herefordshire District Council, where they can be viewed. They were also sent to the parish council.

The plans, released by the Ministry of Defence, show the location of the guardroom, secure stores, accommodation blocks and fuel stores. Security fencing is outlined, as well as access and a NAAFI.

The publication of the plans was criticised by MP yesterday Michael Colvin, chairman of the defence select committee, said: "In the hands of the wrong people, the position of the camp, offices and barracks would be extremely useful." Dr David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said: "It has put the lives of our soldiers at risk. I intend to raise this with Michael Portillo."

The Ministry of Defence said it was routine to submit plans for permission and they had been checked for security implications.

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Bag lady image 'no longer true'

Illness and abuse drive more women into homelessness

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

HOMELESS women are more likely to be educated, married, mothers suffering from schizophrenia or depression than elderly alcoholics carrying all their possessions in plastic bags, according to a report.

A tide of domestic violence and sexual abuse, coinciding with the closure of mental asylums, has led to an increase in young women on the streets. Women frequently become homeless because of family disputes, violence or abuse, researchers found.

If they are mentally ill, they are often forced to stay on the streets because hostels are reluctant to accept people who are too disruptive. The authors of *Double Exposure*, a study by the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, said the view of the homeless woman as a "bag lady" was misleading.

"Every homeless woman is

an individual. Some accumulate quite a lot of belongings and others don't," said Clare Croft-White, a social researcher. "The range of circumstances of homeless women has widened. We are seeing many more younger women coming on to the streets and families and refugees."

Homeless women are more likely than homeless men to have stayed at school, have qualifications and work experience. They tend to have histories of family violence or abusive relationships with men.

The women are more likely than men to have been married, to have children and maintain contact with their families. They are also more likely to have been separated from their parents before the age of 10.

At London hostels, 66 per cent of homeless women are

under 21. Between 1981 and 1993, more than 5,000 bed spaces were lost for the homeless in inner London.

Of the 2,500 left, just over a quarter are for women but only 378 are in women-only hostels. Hostels find it hard to cope with mentally ill women. Many such women are reluctant to stay in mixed accommodation because of the high levels of harassment and violence.

One hostel worker told the researchers: "If a woman was anxious, not feeling safe, she could start to be disruptive and, while people accept that others have needs, the most vocal here tend to be males, who are generally less tolerant."

Fewer than a quarter of hostel staff have mental health qualifications and many feared working with women suffering from psychiatric problems, the report said.

How the doomed campaign, which claimed 252,000 Allied lives, was pictured in *The Illustrated London News*

Letter tells of Gallipoli carnage

By ALAN HAMILTON AND JOHN VINCENT

A FIRST-HAND account of one of the great disasters of British military history is expected to fetch up to £1,500 when it is auctioned at Sotheby's later this month.

The campaign on the Turkish peninsula of Gallipoli was Winston Churchill's attempt to bring the First World War to an early conclusion by attacking the enemy through the back door. Although the

campaign produced much heroism, it claimed 252,000 Allied lives, including 33,000 British.

Staff Surgeon Murray Levick was on board HMS *Baccante*, the Royal Navy ship closest to the action, from which he wrote to his mother in Uckfield, Sussex, of watching helplessly as Allied troops were mown down by enemy fire. "It was rotten to see the poor sods getting such an awful time," Levick recorded in the previously unpublished account. "Some of the boats were nearly filled with dead before they got to the shore. They dropped by the hundred and all around the beach was strewn with wounded."

Levick, 39, gave a detailed account of the landings at Gaba Tepe, largely by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, which suffered terrible casualties. "I am writing this in a great din as we are bombarding incessantly,

We supported the landing of about 20,000 troops, mostly Australians and New Zealanders.

"They met an awful fire of rifles and machineguns, both on the men and retreating boats. These last returned to the transports, filled up again ... By the time these got to the shore, where they were met by

tremendously hot fire, nearly all the first lot had been killed but had held the enemy back ... They were simply raked with fire, and they say the casualties in the first 12 hours were 2,000. We didn't lose a man in the ship, though the howitzer shells were falling all around us."

"They gradually captured the first hill. The sound of rifle fire and machineguns was the most wonderful I have ever heard — they were simply going off solid like being in a hut with a tin roof and a hailstorm coming down on it." The surgeon described constant lines of stretcher-bearers coming down the hillsides to the beach.

Levick, who had been a zoologist and medical officer on the ship taking Captain Scott on his last Antarctic expedition in 1912, survived the war. He was promoted to fleet surgeon and died in 1956, aged 80.



Levick: he survived the gunfire and died in 1956

Irish take to pavements in traffic protest

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of Irish people walked to work yesterday in protest at the Republic's traffic-clogged streets.

The protest was prompted by Pat Kenny, an RTE chat-show host campaigning to reduce rush-hour traffic. Kenny said that he was conducting a "social experiment" to see the effect on traffic if more commuters walked. "It

worked," he said. "Many parts of Dublin had free-flowing traffic. Parts of the city that were gridlocked had cars travelling at 35mph. And people enjoyed it."

The Automobile Association described the experiment as laudable, but claimed there was little appreciable fall in traffic levels in Dublin. In Cork and Limerick, where the average distance from the suburbs to the city centre is three miles, traffic was "remarkably light".

The Irish economic boom lies behind

the congestion. A sharp rise in car ownership in the past three years has placed the inadequate infrastructure under strain. Dublin is often gridlocked with traffic already at levels predicted for 2001.

In reaction the Government introduced a temporary ban on some inner-city meter parking. It is also devising plans for a new public transport system. But debate continues on whether it should be a light-rail system or a more expensive underground scheme.

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Lottery regulator urges clampdown on underage sales

By CAROL MIDGLEY

CHILDREN will go "undercover" to catch shopkeepers who flout lottery rules under plans for a clampdown on underage gambling announced by Oflot yesterday.

The proposals coincided with the first prosecution of a shopkeeper for underage sales. Naheem Bashir, who was caught when trading standards investigators accompanied a 13-year-old girl to his shop, was fined £500.

As well as "test purchases" by children, the lottery regulator is proposing a telephone hotline for public tip-offs about sales to under-16s. It is drawing up the plans with Camelot, the lottery operator, and trading standards officers.

Peter Davis, Director-General of Oflot, described the existence of habitual young lottery and scratchcard players as disturbing. "I will not tolerate sales to under-16s," he said. "They are illegal and bad for the reputation of the National Lottery and, with the help of responsible parents and the public, I intend to make them bad for retailers who flout the law."

Trading standards officials have complained that Camelot has dropped only three of the 35,000 lottery outlets because



Bashir: fined £500 for sales to schoolgirl

of underage sales. Camelot emphasised, however, that it was not a law enforcement agency and could not carry out its own policing.

A survey of 7,200 children aged between 12 and 15 found that up to 15 per cent had spent their own money on the lottery during the previous week. Three per cent were playing two or three times a week.

The survey found that the amount children spent on the lottery had fallen by a third since November 1995. It found, however, that children who frequently bought scratchcards were often involved with alcohol, tobacco, drugs or fruit machines too.

"It is like drink-driving. It is something that's just not acceptable," she told Talk Radio. "The most important sanction on shopkeepers is withdrawing a terminal, for which they get about £8,000 a year."

The Methodist Church expressed concern about the lax controls that allowed a worrying level of gambling by under-16s. It called for the minimum age for players to be 18, saying: "The National Lottery has been promoted by HM Government to serve a number of good causes, but that activity must not take place at the expense of the young and vulnerable."



Police chiefs Pat Byrne, top, and Ronnie Flanagan who are engaged in a friendly wrangle over the silver candelabra held in Belfast

Possession is all of the law in police rivalry

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Dublin's chief of police calls on his counterpart in Belfast, he casts an envious eye over two large silver candelabra prominently displayed in the foyer of the Royal Ulster Constabulary headquarters.

However, Pat Byrne, the Garda Commissioner, is unlikely to secure the silverware for the Republic. Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable,

is said to have no intention of breaking the tradition of Sir Hugh Annesley, his predecessor, who used to take great pleasure in pointing out the candelabra to visiting Irish commissioners. Sir Hugh would tease them with the words: "They're ours and you're not having them."

The candelabra used to form the centrepiece of the officers' mess at the old Royal Irish Constabulary headquarters in Dublin and the Irish police want them back. When the force was

disbanded at the partition of Ireland in 1922 — to be replaced by the RUC in the North and the Garda Síochána in the South — the silver was among hundreds of items distributed to RIC officers by lot. The candelabra, embellished with the RIC insignia, were passed to the RUC in Belfast by relatives of the officers who secured them in 1922.

On returning south from a recent visit to Belfast, a smiling Mr Byrne told an audience in Dublin: "I saw it

and I want it back. At some stage it could be an international incident."

The rivalry between the two forces over the candelabra extends to a friendly competition to secure the other items. The Garda museum in Dublin has an impressive collection of silver spoons with the RIC insignia. Once again, though, the RUC has the upper hand, with a silver snuff box made from the hoof of a horse that saw action at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

Newsagent caught after police tip-off

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE newsagent fined for underage lottery sales was caught after a girl's stepfather tipped off the police and Camelot.

Naheem Bashir, 34, admitted selling an Instant ticket and a National Lottery draw ticket to the 13-year-old girl. He was charged after two trading standards officers accompanied her to his shop, N&N Newsagents, in Armley, Leeds, and saw her buy the tickets.

Leeds Magistrates' Court was told that the police and Camelot were tipped off by her stepfather after she bought a ticket in March. Bashir, who runs the shop with his brother Nadeem, told trading standards investigators that he believed the girl to be "well over 16". The men said that they were aware of the legal restrictions on ticket sales and that they would check a customer's age if they looked under 16.

Jeremy Young, for Bashir, told the court that the lottery machine and Instant tickets had been removed by Camelot

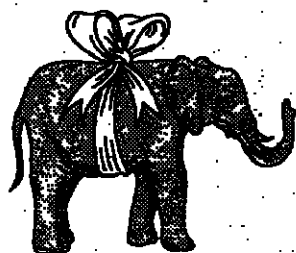
and business was suffering as a result. He presented a petition in support of Bashir, signed by his regular customers, and said that it was often "extremely difficult" to tell how old a teenager was.

"This is not a bad man, but unfortunately he has fallen foul of the situation," Mr Young told the magistrates. "Camelot, for my client's breach, have removed his terminal. One wonders if Camelot had been prosecuted, what would have been removed from them. This case is a salutary lesson that one can never be too careful."

Bashir, of Roundhay, Leeds, declined to comment after the case. Mr Young said: "He feels unlucky, but somebody was going to be."

The case, which was the first of its kind, was brought by west Yorkshire trading standards officers. Camelot said: "We are delighted that a trading standards department has, for the first time, prosecuted a National Lottery retailer for selling tickets to underage players."

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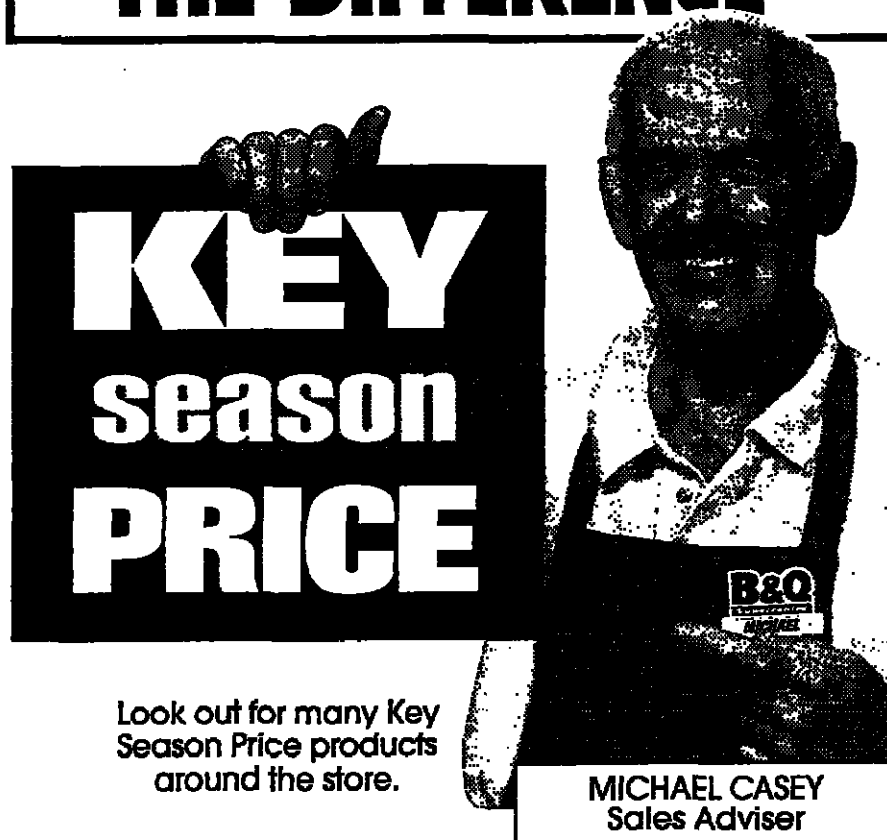
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Cranborne defends Romanticised claims are unconvincing

honour and value of the Upper House

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Leader of the House of Lords, Viscount Cranborne, yesterday condemned Labour's plans to abolish the voting rights of hereditary peers. He said that the party's reforms were ill-considered and would turn the Lords into the greatest quango in the country.

But Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, gave warning that Labour would flood the Lords with life peers if the Tory opposition to constitutional reform, including the party's plans for devolution, became too great. Interviewed by the *New Statesman*, Lord Irvine said: "I wouldn't rule it out. If this was a piece with a determination to thwart devolution legislation, then a Labour government would have to look at every weapon at its disposal."

Lord Cranborne, in a speech to the think-tank Politica, confirmed that in opposition the Tories would not try to overturn Labour's constitutional reforms by ignoring the so-called Salisbury convention, under which peers do not oppose manifesto commitments of an incoming government. But he warned Labour to stick to another equally important convention that constitutional reforms should be fully debated by a committee of the whole House of

Commons. In effect this would allow the Tories to bog down the legislation with detailed amendments.

Lord Cranborne said: "If the electorate and the House of Commons wish to reform us, the Salisbury convention would apply. This means that the House of Lords would not vote against the second reading of a Bill whose principle had been set out in a new government's manifesto."

But he added: "We would still have a constitutional obligation to improve the quality of the legislation by amending it in detail insofar as we think this is justified."

While Labour will see this as a warning not to expect their reforms to get an easy ride in Parliament, Lord Cranborne's remarks will dismay some Tory peers who feel that the Salisbury convention will unnecessarily tie their hands in opposition. Lord Cranborne believes that scrapping the convention, which was proposed in 1945 by his grandfather, the Fifth Marquess of Salisbury, would make the Lords look undemocratic and could increase the pressure for reform.

He said that Labour's "piecemeal" reforms would not improve the constitution but would give greater power to the Lords at the expense of the Commons, challenging

the elected chamber's supremacy.

Lord Cranborne also gave warning against creating a Lords consisting entirely of appointed life-peers, giving the Prime Minister of the day hugely increased powers of patronage.

He admitted that the "spirit of the age was not instinctively sympathetic" to hereditary peers. "Traditionally the public sees the hereditary peerage as a collection of chinless wonders who live on their broad acres, shooting and hunting anything that moves, weak in arm and weak in the head: rather like me in fact. The reality is rather different."

He said that the number of landowning hereditary peers who attended the Lords was declining, and that active peers increasingly were "not rich", had normal jobs and represented the "common man in Parliament". He denied that the Tories had an automatic majority of those peers who regularly attended. Only half of all hereditary peers were Tory, and even they had a "distressing habit of listening to the argument".

Lord Richard, the Labour leader in the Lords, said: "Our commitment to the reform of the House of Lords remains unshaken, and we will look to the electorate to help us get it through."

The House of Commons is the key to reforming the House of Lords. Any reform of the Lords would increase its authority and so challenge the Commons. That is why Lords reform founded in the late 1960s and it remains the unresolved question about Labour's proposals, as Lord Cranborne, Leader of the Lords, argued in his lecture yesterday. This was delivered, appropriately, at 11 Carlton House Terrace, once a home of Gladstone, the long-time opponent of the 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, the late Victorian Prime Minister and great-grandfather of his lordship.

The lecture was one of the most elegant and refreshing from any Cabinet minister for a long time. It had the historical perspective of the Cecil family, together with the pessimistic doubts about democracy of the 3rd Marquess. No other recent Leader of the Lords could have described the House as "like a trusted independent adviser to the headstrong head of a family. The adviser cannot prevent him ruining himself but he can warn and once at least ask him to reconsider."

Lord Cranborne's grandeur and style can be beguiling but his acute insights about the balance of power within Parliament need to be distinguished from his neo-Gothic romanticism about the virtues of hereditary peers. His lordship protested too much about their virtues as amateur politicians in contrast to the admitted dangers of the dominance of the Commons by full-time career politicians. But hereditary peers are not quite the Athenian ideal of democracy.



a body chosen by lot, that he would have us believe. They may be accidents of history but they are not a random sample of the population. His claims that the Lords does not have an in-built Tory majority dependent on hereditary peers were unconvincing. The Government is regularly defeated, but most defeats are minor: when it matters, the

Tory whips almost always prevail.

The Cranborne strategy is of studied reasonableness, partly to head off confrontationists in his own ranks, the heirs, literally, to the diehards of 1910-11. Lord

Cranborne does not want to repeat of the long drawn-out battles of that era which decisively curtailed the powers of the Lords. He emphasised the Salisbury/Addison doctrine devised by his grandfather after Labour's landslide victory in 1945 that it would be constitutionally wrong for the Lords to oppose proposals "which

have been definitely put before the electorate".

By avoiding such a fight, he reserves the right for the Lords to act as an independent-minded revising chamber. He warned against any attempt to take the detailed Commons scrutiny of constitutional measures upstairs in standing committees to avoid clogging up the House with Labour's many proposals for constitutional reform. Lord Cranborne said the convention that the committee stages of such Bills should be on the floor of the Commons was an important safeguard. He linked this to the Salisbury convention on the powers of the Lords, with the implication that if Labour changes the way constitutional matters are considered in the Commons, this will affect their treatment in the Lords.

The paradox of the Lords is that if it uses its power to defy the Commons it makes itself indefensible, while any attempt to make its composition more defensible has so far been unacceptable to the Commons. Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, makes plain in the *New Statesman* today that Labour is determined to abolish hereditary peers and would be prepared to consider the Asquith-Lloyd George threat of 1911 of a mass creation of life peers if the Lords obstructed constitutional reform. The Tories would be better advised to concentrate on questioning Labour's reform proposals than to go to the last ditch in defending hereditary peers. Tony Blair can only win such a peer-versus-the-people battle.

PETER RIDDELL

Blair wins support for code of conduct

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR won the support of Labour MPs last night for a new code of conduct that makes it a disciplinary offence to do anything that "brings the party into disrepute".

Mr Blair made clear that Labour should be seen as professional and disciplined in contrast to the Tory party. But the code, supported by 86 to 27, was watered down by an amendment stating that it should be applied in a way that did not "stifle democratic debate on policy matters". The amendment said that the code should not "weaken the spirit of tolerance and respect referred to in Clause Four".

There were also signs yesterday that backbenchers may not hold the line. Twenty-seven MPs, including members of the left-wing campaign group, voted against the code and two MPs, Jeremy Corbyn and Eddie Loyden, have signed a petition from the Socialist Workers' Party attacking the Labour leader.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: Home Office questions to the Prime Minister; Atomic Scientific Procedures Act (Food No 1) Order; Part of the Authority (Transfer of Undertaking) Order; Social Security (Disability Living Allowance and Claims and Payments) (Amendment) Regulations; debate on north Dublin roadworks; services to the Lords; various orders plus National Heritage Bill, report and Resolution by committee; Trust (Amendment) Bill, committee; Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Amendment) Bill, second reading; Home Energy Rating Surveys Bill, second reading; debate on proposed sale of British Telecom.

ship. This follows a mini-rebellion by four Labour MPs who voted against the penny cut in income tax in the Budget debate when the official line was to abstain.

Some leftwingers complained that there had been little time for proper debate during yesterday's meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party, where 24 amendments were tabled to the 22-page document. The final pages of the paper are expected to be backed at next week's meeting of the PLP when disciplinary measures will be discussed.

The revised code reaffirms that MPs should refrain from "personal attacks upon colleagues orally or in writing" and should "act in harmony with the policies of the Parliamentary Labour Party". The new clause is that MPs should "do nothing which brings the party into disrepute". Whether a particular action falls into that category will be for Donald Dewar, Labour's chief Whip, to decide.

The ultimate sanction for such behaviour would be withdrawal of the whip, but the first stage would be a written reprimand from the Chief Whip, which would be reported to the parliamentary committee and to the constituency party of the MP concerned. This could lead to an MP being de-selected by his local party.

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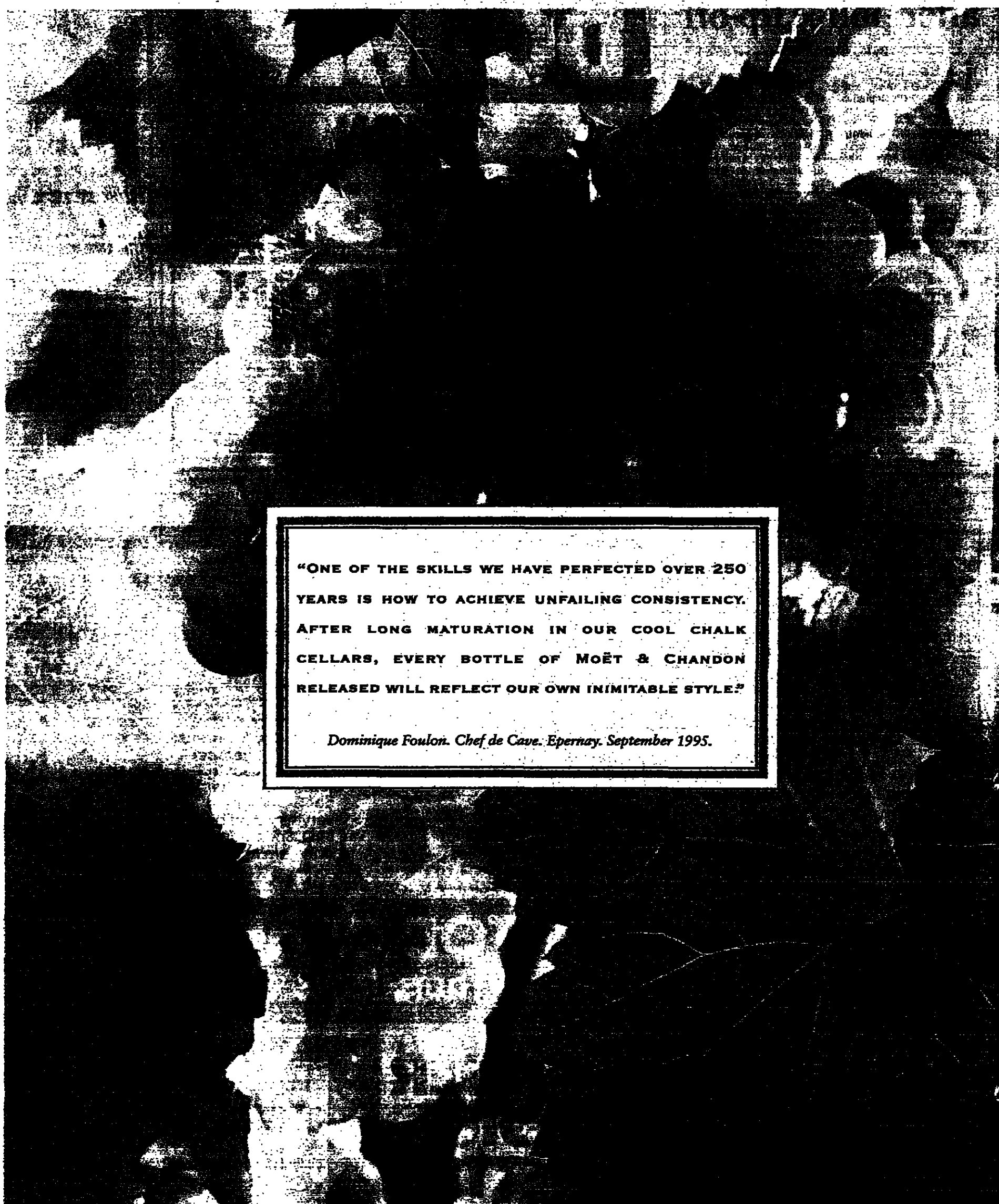
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Scottis

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Well sued Outer £2m

Board pay still r

THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY DECEMBER 5 1996

Bass toasts 7,000 new jobs

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BASS, the brewing and leisure company, plans to create about 7,000 jobs in its pubs and leisure businesses this year as it ploughs £670 million into expansion plans.

Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, said the jobs would be concentrated in its branded pubs businesses — while about 1,500 positions will be created through the expansion of its bowling parks and Dave and Busters, the adult orientated electronic theme parks.

Bass unveiled a 12 per cent increase in full-year profit before tax to £671 million. It added that it had created about 6,000 jobs this year after investing £568 million.

The job details come as the company awaits an Office of Fair Trading decision on whether to refer its £200 million purchase of Carlsberg-Tetley to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The City is expecting Bass to make

substantial job cuts if it receives regulatory clearance for the takeover of the rival brewing group. Bass said yesterday it had no further concrete details on the regulatory process, although the company confirmed it would walk away from the deal if the authorities imposed conditions regarded as too stringent.

Turnover rose 12.5 per cent

to £5.1 billion. The total dividend rises 10 per cent to 25p — above City expectations. Hooper's Hooch, the country's bestselling ale, helped profits in the brewery division to rise 9 per cent to £157 million. Sir Ian said he did not believe that the 40 per cent duty rise imposed in the Budget would have a significant effect on sales. Bass has

begun exporting Hooper's to some 30 countries and said initial sales were promising. Overall volumes in the beer division rose 2.7 per cent with premium products such as Carlsberg, Carling Premier and Grolsch enjoying strong growth. Brivvic, the soft drinks division, increased profits 9 per cent to £50 million.

Frankie Detorri's achieve-

ment in riding seven race winners at Ascot hit profits at the leisure division, which fell 11 per cent to £66 million. Bass said Mr Detorri's unique feat, on the last Saturday of the company's financial year, cost Coral, its bookmaking business, about £4 million. Continuing difficulties at the Gala bingo business also hurt profits, with bingo admissions

falling 3.1 per cent. The managed house division lifted operating profits 23 per cent to £221 million as food sales rose 54 per cent. Drink sales were 6.5 per cent ahead.

Bass currently owns and

manages 2,780 pubs, including 102 Harvester restaurants, 69 O'Neill Irish theme pubs and 15 All Bar One cafe bars. Profits from the company's

1,440 tenanted pubs rose 51 million to £61 million.

The hotel division increased operating profits 19 per cent to £195 million helped by rising room rates in America. Bass added a further 280 hotels to its Holiday Inn Worldwide franchise brand during the year, bringing the total number to 2,250 hotels with 337,000 rooms. A further 560 hotels, with 59,000 rooms, have gained formal approval to join the brand but have not yet entered the system. Bass said it expects about 85 per cent of these to join the system over the next 18 months.

Sir Ian said the company expects growth to be restored to the leisure business this year and that the continuing buoyancy in consumer spending and growth in demand for US hotels should drive the business forward. But he said a strengthening pound could hit dollar profits.

A final dividend of 17.3p is payable on February 10.

Pennington, page 27

ScottishPower wields axe

By OLIVER AUGUST

SCOTTISHPOWER is to shed 2,000 jobs at Southern Water as part of a reorganisation programme.

ScottishPower said that Southern Water, acquired for £1.68 billion in July, was unfocused, wasteful and lacking in efficiency.

Mike Kinosh, who is leading the reorganisation, said Southern Water was burdened by its huge bureaucracy, which had developed as

the utility diversified. At the time of the takeover, he said, 25 employees were needed to do the paperwork for the bills that the different divisions were charging each other. A consumer service system is to receive computer technology for the first time and the number of customer call centres is to be reduced from four to one.

Of the 2,000 jobs, 700 will disappear through direct cuts at Southern Water and 1,300 are to be shed through selling

off non-core businesses. ScottishPower increased pre-tax profits 31 per cent to £167 million in the six months to September 30. Earnings per share rose 26 per cent to 14p and the interim dividend was lifted from 5.17p to 6.17p. The full-year dividend is forecast to rise 19 per cent to 18.5p.

The company said that integration targets at Manweb, acquired in 1995, had exceeded expectations.

Pennington, page 27

Unions attack NatWest

NATWEST was criticised by unions after it confirmed that it would cut "at least" 10,000 more jobs and close 200 branches by the year 2000 (Robert Miller writes).

Bift, the banking, finance and insurance union, said NatWest's decision would hit some communities very hard and called for a rethink. Alan Ainsworth, Bift assistant secretary added: "We cannot endorse the creation of unemployment

ghettos." The 30,000-strong NatWest Staff Association said: "This number of job losses is huge in anyone's language. We will examine and scrutinise all of the bank's proposals to ensure they are sensible, not only for staff who stay or go, but also for customers."

Tim Jones, managing director of retail banking, said the two unions had helped to draw up the strategy behind the announcement.

Pennington, page 27

Delta in talks to create world's largest carrier

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

DELTA AIRLINES and Continental Airlines are in talks to create the world's largest carrier. A merger could trigger a wave of consolidation in the crowded US airline industry. Insiders said the most likely outcome from the talks was a takeover worth about \$1.8 billion of Continental, the fifth largest American carrier, by Delta, the third largest.

The combined company would have about one quarter of America's domestic market, overtaking United Airlines in US business, although it

would still trail United and American Airlines in international services. It would serve about 150 cities inside the US.

The route networks of Delta and Continental would fit fairly well together although both operate from hubs in the South. Delta is centred on Atlanta, while Continental's hub is Dallas, but the overlap is not great. Overseas, Delta operates more routes to Europe, while Continental Airlines concentrates on Latin America.

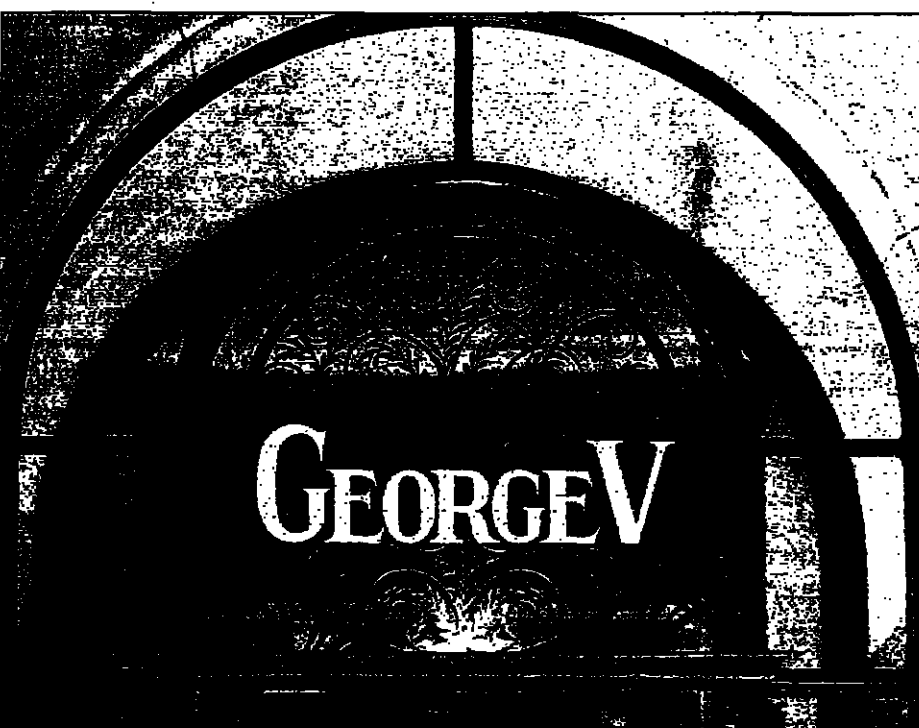
The talks, which surprised most analysts, are the latest step in the consolidation of the US airline industry that has prompted a wave of deals with foreign carriers, the largest of which is the proposed link between British Airways and American.

US companies have made large profits over the last two years but see little room for further organic growth, increasing pressure for growth through takeovers or other deals. An agreement between BA and American would produce the world's largest international air network. It would also give BA access to the huge domestic US market by linking with American's internal flights.

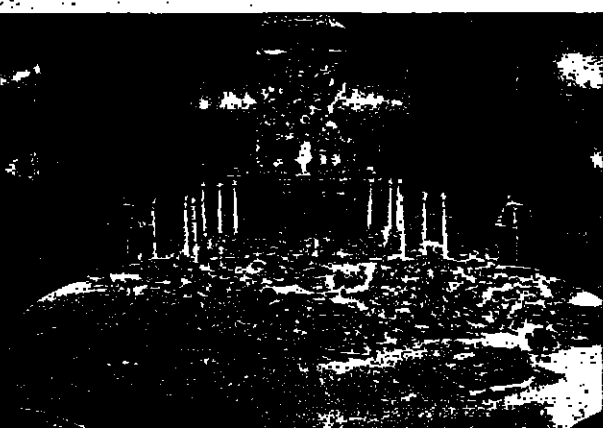
However, merger talks between US airlines are notoriously uncertain as the failed negotiations between American and United demonstrated last year. The deals most likely to succeed are now between relatively weak airlines and stronger airlines with a large market share.

Inside the US, the airlines with the widest networks and the most "hub" airports are regarded as the strongest placed to take advantage of an industry consolidation. Continental is the weaker partner in the current talks, having emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection just two and a half years ago.

David Bonderman, its leading shareholder who has masterminded the airline's financial recovery, describes himself as a medium-term investor and may be looking to sell his shares, analysts said.



The way in for Prince al-Waleed: the George V hotel in Paris being sold by Granada Group



Part of the dining room at the prestigious hotel



Prince al-Waleed: beat rivals

Saudi prince buys George V

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

PRINCE al-Waleed bin Talal, the Saudi billionaire who is a nephew of King Fahd, yesterday revealed he was buying the George V hotel in Paris for £104 million from Granada Group.

The Prince is understood to have beaten off stiff competition, including Prince Jefri of Brunei, to secure the George V — one of the world's most prestigious hotels. The hotel, which has 258 rooms, was opened in 1928. Last year the hotel, part of Granada's Exclusive chain, made an operating loss of £200,000 on £17 million turnover.

The City welcomed the sale

price — well above the hotel's book value of £92.3 million. Granada's shares rose 8p to close at 882.5p.

Earlier this month Granada made its first Exclusive sale when Mandarin Oriental International, the Hong Kong-based hotel group, paid £86 million for the Hyde Park Hotel in London. Granada is aiming to sell the remaining 15 hotels in the Exclusive chain, which has a total book value of £800 million, over the next few months. Chelsfield, the property company, is believed to be close to acquiring the Westbury in Mayfair for around £40 million.

Prince al-Waleed has been expanding his hotel interests rapidly in recent years and is believed to have made an offer of about £750 million for the whole of the Exclusive chain. He has also bid around £350 million for the Princess luxury hotels, that Loro is selling. He already owns a substantial stake in the Four Seasons hotel group and the Plaza Hotel in New York.

Earlier this year, the Prince took the unusual step of teaming up with Michael Jackson, the pop star, to establish a multimedia entertainment business focusing on "family values".

Capel loses £3.6m over Energy sale

By KEITH RODGERS

HSBC James Capel is nursing a loss of £3.675 million on a single transaction after the Government's sale of 81 million shares in British Energy, the nuclear generator, on Tuesday.

The market maker bought the entire stake at a price of 140p a share, and sold about a quarter of the holding on the same day. Yesterday it declared an outstanding interest in 8.75 per cent of British Energy, and is expected to retain the holding in the medium term. However, the shares closed at 140p yesterday, leaving James Capel with 61.25 million shares valued at 6p less than the purchase price.

British Energy shares have

already had a rocky ride since flotation in the summer, initially falling below the 105p offer price. The Government retained a 12 per cent stake after failing to find buyers.

The disposal was part of a £257 million divestment of utility shares, and included 6.6 million National Grid shares and 18.7 million Scottish Power Holdings in six electricity companies were sold to Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which declined to comment yesterday on their forward sale. Shares in three water companies were also sold. The Treasury retains holdings in BT and the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company.

Pound slips back again

THE pound continued to fall yesterday. Sterling's trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies closed at 92.7, compared with 93.7 on Tuesday, losing ground against the mark and dollar. It finished at about DM2.5602, down nearly two pence from Tuesday and nearly eight pence from Monday's peak of DM2.6370.

Gilt repos, page 26

Abell sues Suter for £2m

By MARTIN BAKER

DAVID ABELL, the controversial former chairman of Suter, the industrial conglomerate, is suing his old company for £2 million.

Mr Abell, who made an estimated £10 million last year when he sold Suter to Ascot Holdings for £290 million, is alleging that Suter has failed to honour the three-year rolling contract that paid him £390,000 a year. Bonuses and a putative pay rise boost the sum claimed to the £2 million mark.

A spokesman for Ascot said: "We have offered Mr Abell a very substantial sum of money to settle his contract, and the record will show that."

The spokesman added: "But he obviously wants more and has served us with a writ."

Mr Abell was unavailable for comment yesterday. He has enjoyed a somewhat volatile relationship with the City after his share dealings were criticised by the Department of Trade and Industry in 1993.

Board pay still rising faster than workers'

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BOARDROOM pay is rising faster than in previous years, with average increases for company directors reaching 5 per cent, the latest top wages study from the Institute of Directors (IoD) and Reward, the pay research group, shows.

It says that on average over the past 12 months directors enjoyed rises of

between 3.7 per cent and 5 per cent, ahead of rank-and-file company employees. Almost 5,000 directors in the UK responded to the survey.

Directors are forecasting further increases in the coming year of between 3.5 per cent and 4.5 per cent, although the study suggests that close to a fifth are expecting rises of above 5 per cent.

While accepting that directors' pay and benefits remain very high on the

public and political agenda, the study says that following the recommendations of the Greenbury and Cadbury committees on pay and corporate governance, greater openness should remove the feeling "that there are thousands of 'fat cats' out there creaming off the profits of the company and giving low pay rises to their staff".

Suggesting that the typical pay for a managing director in a company with a turnover of up to £25 million is now

£52,000, the report emphasises that most company directors do not have levels anything like those in publicly quoted companies that provoked such a political and public furor.

Tim Melville-Ross, Director-General of the IoD, said that the survey "confirms, once again, that high-profile salaries and rises are not representative and give quite the wrong impression about directors' rewards generally".

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BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

The Bank is seeking comment on its proposals and is hoping to implement final plans early next year.

□ Reaction to yesterday's £2.5 billion auction of five-year gilts was disappointing with bids received of only 1.7 times the amount on offer. This is less strong than the demand seen at the previous two auctions.

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

ALAN BOND, the former Australian tycoon, yesterday pleaded guilty to his part in the biggest corporate fraud in Australian history in a move that could see him spend ten more years behind bars.

Bond is already serving three years in jail for defrauding Bond Corporation, his public company, over the sale of *La Promenade*, a French Impressionist painting.

Yesterday he admitted ac-

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

ment in the UK still fell in the first three years of the 1990s recovery. Only in Canada and Germany was employment performance "clearly worse" than in Britain. On unemployment, the study says the UK is now performing better than other European countries.

RON ZWANZIGER, the American biotech businessman, has staged a second attempt to gain control of Enviromed, the UK-listed healthcare company, through a motion to oust its entire board. Selfcare, Mr Zwanziger's US-based medical services group, has used its 28.9 per cent of Enviromed's voting shares to demand the dismissal of Tom Murphy, chief executive, and the three other board members. Enviromed's shares closed 1/4p stronger yesterday at 24 1/2p.

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457

□ MMC beckons for beer merger □ Whistle-blowers may regret their altruism □ Taking the cost out at Southern

Lang's hand at the pump

□ COMPANY announcements seem to get longer and longer. Bass's full-year statement yesterday weighed in at 27 pages — and still barely a mention of the main question on investors' minds, whether the company will be allowed to become Britain's biggest brewer.

Reticence is understandable because these are delicate days for the purchase of half of Carlsberg-Tetley, which would give Bass control of two-fifths of British beer production. The Office of Fair Trading's views went last week to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and are thought to be damning.

It is now up to Mr Lang whether to require Bass to negotiate terms and conditions with a hostile Office of Fair Trading, or to throw the deal to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It will not be an easy decision, but Mr Lang has only himself to blame. It had always been assumed that a 25 per cent market share was any brewer's limit.

But he allowed that ceiling to be breached with Scottish & Newcastle's purchase of Courage. That gave S&N 30 per cent, so raising the question of where the limit should now be set.

About 10 per cent of beer consumed in Britain is imported

legally, and more is smuggled in across the Channel. Supporters of further consolidation say there is enough choice to prevent exploitation. The brewers' share of each pint accounts for only about 25p anyway, leaving little leeway for huge price rises. Most developed countries have only two big brewers, such duopolies being the natural market structure for low-price, high-volume consumer products.

The rest of the brewing industry is dead against Bass's expansion plans. S&N would prefer to remain top dog; the small regionals and the new pub operators fear any greater power won't be theirs.

This all stems from the changed nature of the British pub, as brought about by the pub sales forced on the majors by the Government's 1989 Beer Orders. They were deprived of the easy living provided by all that captive estate, while the purchasers provided extra competition.

The result was that the price of beer outpaced inflation, but pubs

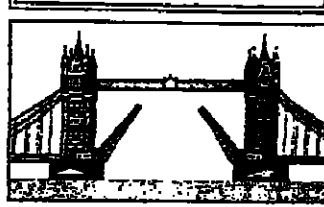
in general improved. The returns available from brewing fell, and several smaller brewers quit the game.

The Carlsberg deal would leave more than four-fifths of production in the hands of three players. Bass was saying yesterday that it would walk away if the terms struck were too onerous — say the disposal of every pub or brand. It will not come to that. The most likely outcome is an MMC inquiry, the timetable of the Carlsberg deal even allowing for this, to decide under what circumstances Bass can achieve its aims. That is, after all, what the MMC is there for.

How fraudsters evade the net

□ WHEN two Far East banks blew the whistle recently, they were left wishing they had been less public spirited. The account-holders they suspected sued for \$300 million, saying the freezing of their accounts had blocked a big

PENNINGTON



business deal. Never mind that he was already standing trial for alleged fraud.

The case, more suited to the bizarre reaches of the American legal system, was cited at the second annual international fraud conference in London as an example of the barriers to successful prosecution. Senior fraud squad officers are increasingly frustrated at the lack of progress, bordering on government indifference.

One who has put his head above the parapet is William Taylor, Commissioner for the City of London Police and chairman of the Association of Chief

Police Officers' crime committee. His complaint is that there is no specific offence of fraud on the statute book.

Fraudsters operate in as many as half a dozen jurisdictions. The police must prove the case separately in each to stand a chance of securing a conviction in the UK alone. If the case falls down anywhere, the chances are that once again the person walks, very often to enjoy the proceeds of his crimes.

So juries are having to consider complicated and, in many cases, inappropriate charges — false accounting, making misleading statements, or conspiracy to defraud. The police want a single charge on the books: the opportunity may come soon in the form of a European Union initiative.

A convention, shortly to be ratified by heads of government, allows for a common definition of what constitutes EU fraud to be translated into the criminal laws of member states. The convention might be usefully

extended to any jurisdiction, for the first time putting the offence of fraud where it belongs — on statute books internationally.

Scotch and water a powerful brew

□ THERE are only two reasons why one utility should want to buy another. One is to abuse even greater monopoly power, and no one would want to do that, would they? The other is to sack large numbers of people and use the resulting cost savings to boost profits.

ScottishPower has shown itself well down the second track at Southern Water. Much was made at the time of the bid this summer of the benefits to customers, opportunities for cross-selling, eventual supermarket shopping for all utility needs, and so on. But the City had been looking for annual cost savings from Southern of more than £40 million; the company has forecast £52 million. As much as £50

million of reorganisation costs were feared at Southern; they came in at £21 million.

Small wonder the shares, lousy performers since the bid was first mooted, rebounded yesterday. Merrill Lynch has set a target of £4 a share, back above where they were in the spring. They will probably get there. All this is not bad for a company lucky to exist in its current form. With all the takeover bids now being kicked to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, it is as well the Scots started their buying spree before utilities takeovers were declared a political anathema.

Head spinning

□ SIGN of the times: Citigate, the amiable financial spin doctor, sorry, the "diversified communications and marketing group", has been sold for 15 times' forecast earnings. This requires it to stick around for that length of time, or at least to show further rapid growth before anything goes wrong. Why does this sort of price make one so nervous? Could it be because Citigate was created eight years ago out of one of those ghastly schisms to which such people businesses are so vulnerable?

Carlton targets pay-TV as next area of growth

By ERIC REGULY

CARLTON Communications, the ITV company with the Central and London weekday franchises, said yesterday that it will target the pay-TV market as its next growth area.

Carlton's strategy to focus on subscription channels was unveiled one week after it paid £85 million for Westcountry Television, the ITV company in Devon and Cornwall. The deal made it the largest ITV company and left it with little room to expand in the commercial broadcasting market. Office of Fair Trading guidelines prevent TV companies from controlling more than 25 per cent of total TV airtime sales. This stopped Carlton from launching takeover bids for larger players, such as HTV and MAI.

Michael Green, chairman, said: "Free and pay-television channels should not be seen as competitors; they are complementary businesses. Free television is driven by the need to deliver mass audiences to subscribers, pay TV by the need to sign up subscribers. Carlton wants to establish a significant presence in both



Michael Green reported a 20 per cent increase in profit

markets." Carlton has already launched two pay channels, Carlton Select and Carlton Food Network, on cable in Britain and has interests in new subscription services in France, India and Singapore. Carlton would not provide details of its plans for the

sector, other than to say that it intends to produce programming as well as operate pay-TV channels.

Analysts said that Carlton has to go beyond the ITV market if it wants to expand in television. But they noted that pay-TV channels on their own

will not guarantee strong growth. Such channels can deliver only relatively small audiences because of their specialised nature.

Carlton reported a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £295 million, in the year to September 30, on turnover of £1.68 billion, up 6 per cent. Earnings per share were 31.6p, up 21 per cent. The results were in line with analysts' forecasts.

Strong growth in the non-TV businesses were behind the rise. Operating income in the core TV division grew just 5 per cent, to £123 million, because of soft advertising sales. A turnaround is expected.

The biggest gains were in the film division, which processes and cleans films and makes copies of films for cinemas. It reported a 27 per cent rise in operating profits, to £52.7 million. The products division, which makes editing systems, was up 33 per cent to £43.1 million.

The final dividend of 6.72p, to be paid April 7, makes a total dividend of 11.1p, up 17.5 per cent.

Tempus, page 28

Citigate to join stock market

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

CITIGATE Communications Group, the financial public relations and marketing firm, is to join the stock market through a reverse takeover by Incepta, a smaller but quoted sales promotion and direct marketing company (Morag Preston writes).

Incepta's all-share deal will value Citigate at about £29 million.

David Wright, Citigate's chief executive, will hold the same post at the enlarged business, while Graham Green, Incepta's chief executive, will be Mr Wright's deputy.

Citigate's clients include Granada, JP Morgan Worldwide, UBS in New York, and LucasVarity.

Incepta will finance its purchase by issuing up to 133 million shares. The size of the deal prompted Incepta to suspend trading in its shares at 21½p.

Kingfisher hails autumn success

Woolworths to B&Q retailing group, yesterday revealed strong autumn sales figures that bode well for a prosperous Christmas.

In the three months to November 2, like-for-like sales in the group — excluding shops opened since last year — rose 7.5 per cent. Total sales, including new shops, were 13 per cent ahead at £1.3 billion.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, hailed the figures as encouraging and said they were "achieved in competitive markets where value for money is crucial to the customer".

Many City analysts were persuaded by the sales figures to increase their forecasts for pre-tax profit this year. UBS added £15 million to £370 million and Hoare Govett raised its forecast £10 million to £380 million.

Comet, the out-of-town electricals retailer, was the

group's best performer, lifting like-for-like sales 14 per cent to £161 million.

B&Q, the do-it-yourself chain, was helped by the buoyant housing market and increased its sales 12.7 per cent to £366 million. Superdrug's sales rose 5.4 per cent to £166 million. The company said Superdrug's move away from household and food products and into health and beauty is continuing successfully.

Woolworths sales for the period were 9.4 per cent ahead, to £324 million. The company has modernised 117 stores around the country, and those stores saw sales rise by an average 22 per cent.

The only blot on Kingfisher's copybook was Darty, the French electricals market leader, where like-for-like sales grew just 0.4 per cent to £286 million. Kingfisher shares rose 1½p to 654p.

Tempus, page 28

TLG blames European conditions

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TLG, the lighting group, yesterday blamed difficult market conditions across Europe as it unveiled a 27 per cent fall in interim profits to £8.3 million. TLG said in September that half-time profits to September 30 would be £8.85 million (£11.4 million).

Hamish Bryce, chairman, expects profit improvement programmes to give savings of around £1.5 million in the second half. In the first half, UK operating profit fell from £4.6 million to £2.8 million, while in the rest of Europe it fell from £5.9 million to £4.3 million.

New contracts won included the re-lighting of Prague airport, tunnel lighting in Croatia and for the Great Belt Bridge in Denmark, the world's longest suspension bridge.

Fully diluted earnings per share were 2.9p (4p). The interim has been held at 1.4p, payable on February 14.

US shareholder buys Ashbourne

By ERIC REGULY

AN AMERICAN company became the second largest nursing home group in Britain yesterday with the purchase of Ashbourne.

Sun Healthcare of New Mexico, through Exceler, its British subsidiary, agreed to pay 177p a share for the 70.6 per cent of Ashbourne that it does not already own. The offer values Ashbourne at £95 million.

The offer represents a premium of almost 30 per cent to Ashbourne's share price on November 22, when Ashbourne revealed it was in bid talks. The shares closed up 14p to 175p.

The acquisition comes shortly after Sun Healthcare agreed to pay £13.5 million for

Apta, another British nursing home group. Exceler, Ashbourne and Apta together will have 6,800 beds; only Takare will be larger.

Bob Wollit, Sun's chief financial officer, said the company did not expect to make another acquisition in the short to medium term.

"We've reached our immediate goal, which was to achieve a significant position in the UK market," he said.

The group will now concentrate on putting the three companies together and building new nursing homes. The enlarged group will be based in Glasgow and Eton and will trade under the Ashbourne name.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the Listing Rules of the London Stock Exchange Limited (the "London Stock Exchange"). Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the listing of the ordinary shares of Parkwood Holdings plc ("the Company") to be issued and to be admitted to the Official List. It is emphasized that this advertisement does not constitute an offer or invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase securities. It is expected that the listing of the ordinary shares of 1p each under the Official List will commence on 10 December 1996.

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Share capital immediately following the Placing

Authorized	Issued	Ordinary shares of 1p each	Reserves	Assets
28,400,000	2,284,626	21,945,365	21,114,635	

The Company is an established service provider in the facilities management market operating on turn contracts which are predominantly held with local authorities.

A Prospectus has been published. Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained during normal business hours on or after 6 December 1996 from the Company's Prospectus Office (the "Prospectus Office") at the London Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP and during normal business hours on any weekday (Sundays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 17 December 1996 from the Company's registered office, Parkwood House, Clonville Park, Berkeley Drive, Clonville, Bristol, BS20 7AA. Tel: 01454 4422. Email: WiseSpeke@parkwood.co.uk. National House, 36 St Ann Street, Manchester, M20 2EP or from Dilib Lapsley Acland, 6 Doughty Hill, London EC6R 2SS.

5 December, 1996

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Selection onto the intensive 5-weekend course is based on experience, not qualifications. As there are only a limited number of places on offer you will need to act soon or you could be making the same resolution next year.

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Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with paragraph 140 (A) of the Company's Articles of Association, it is the intention that, following the expiry of the period of three months after the date of publication of this advertisement, the Company will sell the shares of members (or shares to which persons are entitled by virtue of transmission on death or bankruptcy) if and provided that during a period of 12 years at least three dividends in respect of the shares have become payable and no dividend during that period has been claimed by the members (or persons so entitled by transmission or bankruptcy).

D H Blum, Company Secretary, Croyer House, 1 Thomas More St, London E1 8AR

Calculate the real cost of airline loyalty schemes to your company?

“travelling executives were choosing flights which earned maximum points rather than sticking to airlines offering the most economic flights”

The Financial Times 7/10/96 (from MORI survey)

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Swiss rush for CU shares

revives takeover rumours

AN avalanche of Swiss buying sent shares of Commercial Union climbing close to the year's high. The shares again came under the takeover spotlight and by the close of business almost four million shares had changed hands.

The price advanced 8 1/2p to 669 1/2p, just 8p shy of its peak. The high turnover raised a few eyebrows with market-makers, who only normally quote a price in 50,000 shares at a time. It was also the origin of the buying which attracted attention. Much of it was Swiss. Commercial Union has been tipped as a takeover target for years. Allianz, the German insurer, is a name often mentioned. Last night Allianz refused to comment.

Yesterday BAT Industries was added to the list after reports suggesting that the group had abandoned plans to buy its financial services arm, which includes Eagle Star, Farmers in the US and Allied Hambro, from its tobacco interests.

BAT Industries retreated 3 1/2p to 469p on those reports. The City would be pleased to see such a demerger. Brokers are worried about continuing litigation in the US relating to tobacco-related diseases which has helped to depress the price this year. It has dropped from a peak of 585p.

The bloodbath that had been anticipated in London after the overnight sell-off in New York failed to materialise. In the face of heavy falls in the gilt market, the FT-SE 100 index actually put up some stiff resistance. Down 23 points, at one stage, it reduced the deficit to 16.3 at 4,045.2 by the close. This was in spite of renewed losses for the Dow Jones average in New York morning trading.

ICI rose 13 1/2p to 77 1/2p on the back of a 20p rise in the company's shares. The US chemical group Dupont has raised the price of titanium dioxide. ICI is also a big producer.

Ashtourne jumped 14p to 175p on news of the agreed bid from Sun Healthcare worth 177p a share.

Lloyds TSB firmed 1 1/2p to 424 1/2p in a falling market with the help of a profits upgrade from HSBC James Capel, the broker. Capel has cut its forecast for Albright & Wilson after the group announced it had lost a major customer. The shares ended



TGI's Nigel Hamilton and Peter Russell, finance director, saw shares mark time after an increase in half-year profits

6 1/2p off at 166p. There was a late sell-off in British Aerospace with the price dropping 28 1/2p to £11.21 1/2 on news that the French Government had suspended the privatisation of Thomson. This follows the decision of the Privatisation Committee to reject the choice of Lagardere as preferred bidder for the group. British

Heavy turnover was noted in British Steel, up 1 1/4p at 164 1/4p, with almost five million shares changing hands. Brokers say there is a short position in the options market which needs to be covered before expiry of the December series. There is also talk that the group may be close to selling its aluminium operations.

Aerospace had teamed up with Lagardere to bid for Thomson. Royal Electronics continued to recover from Monday's profits warning and subsequent profit setback on Tuesday. The shares ended the session 7 1/2p better at 243p. LucasVarity also firmed 3 1/2p to 237 1/2p. The group is shedding 3,000 jobs and plans

ker, has raised its forecast by £10 million to £380 million. Williams Holdings rose 5p to 344 1/2p after giving details of 15 management buyouts within the group which should raise an estimated £360 million. The group hinted it was keen to move into security. Speculators took the view it might bid for Chubb Security, 3p firmer at 338p.

Commercial Union: Swiss buying drives price higher. The FT-SE 100 index (released) is shown in a line graph, with the share price of Commercial Union (released) shown as a bar chart. The share price is significantly higher than the index.

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Carlton Communications dropped 14p to 489 1/2p after weighing in with an 18 per cent increase in full-year profits at £295.1 million. The market was disturbed to find that profits from television advertising had grown only 5 per cent. Carlton accounts for 34 per cent of advertising among the independent broadcasters.

Big cost savings failed to boost ScottishPower which ended the session 2p shy at 330 1/2p. The group estimates profits at Southern Water will be enhanced by £62 million in cost savings. The group reported a £40 million increase in pre-tax profits in the first six months to £167.1 million.

Full-year figures from Bass showing pre-tax profits 12 per cent higher at £671 million were in line with City expectations. The group intends to invest £670 million during the year, creating an extra 7,000 jobs. The strong pound cost the group £700,000. The shares rose 2p to 813p.

TGI's electronic equipment group led by Nigel Hamilton, chief executive, marked time at 113p despite reporting a useful increase in pre-tax profits during the first six months of the year. The figure was up from £811,000 to £1 million.

Share purchases by several directors lifted On Demand Information by 5p to 57 1/2p. Graham Poulter, chairman, has bought a further 22,500 shares at 55p lifting his total holding to 277 million, or 41.25 per cent. David Storey, finance director, has increased his holding by 2,500 shares to 207,278.

GILT-EDGED: A hike in market response to the short auction undermined sentiment in an already depressed bond market. The issue of £2.5 billion of Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was just 1.7 times oversubscribed, a poor response to a short-dated issue.

In futures the March series of the long gilt dropped £1 1/4 to close at £110 1/4 as a total of 59,000 contracts were completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 tumbled 7 1/2p to £104 1/2 1/2 while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £1 1/2 off at £103 1/2.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average was down 16.02 points at midday to 6,426.67 as investors again took profits in larger companies in favour of smaller capitalised stocks.

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 6426.67 (-16.02)

S&P Composite 744.53 (-3.79)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 20899.91 (+29.33)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 14342.24 (+22.02)

Amsterdam:

EOT Index 630.81 (-4.56)

Sydney:

AO 2370.72 (-7.74)

Frankfurt:

DAX 2860.07 (-20.91)

Singapore:

Strait 2194.36 (+8.44)

Brussels:

General 1051.29 (+7.79)

Paris:

CAC-40 2308.65 (+40.48)

Zurich:

SIX Gen 1151.29 (+7.79)

London:

FT 30 2799.10 (+1.60)

FT 100 4045.2 (-16.3)

FTSE Mid 250 4421.9 (-4.7)

FTSE 250 2038.9 (-4.9)

FTSE Eurostock 100 1802.8 (-4.6)

FT All-Share 999.9 (-1.1)

FT Non Financials 117.82 (+0.12)

FT Govt Secs 95.43 (+0.02)

Sargents 3548

US (Dollars) 103.34 (-0.09)

US\$ 1.6382 (-0.0138)

German Mark 2.3602 (-0.0263)

Cashew Index 927.1 (-1.4)

Bank of England official rate (4pm)

5.00%

EPU 153.8 Oct (2.7%) Jan 1997-100

RPI 153.6 Oct (3.3%) Jan 1997-100

Access Plus 100% 2

Bechtel Power Cn 79%

Bechtel 187%

Brilliant 152%

Car Group 162%

Charterhouse 64%

Dawn Tusk 121%

East Asia (160) 162%

Druid Grp 318%

Ester Inv 97%

First Russian Fts C 587%

Future Int Tele (115) 126%

Geo Interactive (100) 83%

Goldbank Int 122%

Grantham Hldgs 131%

Kern River 50%

Majestic Wines 226%

Oliver Ashworth 135%

Provent (125) 127%

Reaching Servs 139%

Scott Highland Hls 139%

Second St David Inc 111%

Second St David Res 9%

Simple Cochrane 226%

Snakeboard (3) 3%

Arcadian Int n/p (45) 1%

Bodycorp Int n/p 107%

INVESTCO n/p (220) 4%

More Group n/p (600) 22%

Regallan Pps n/p (30) 1%

Stalks n/p (82) 8%

Vision Grp n/p (235) 61%

RSES:

Blackie Leds 321p (+9.9p)

Siebe 989p (+19p)

Irish Perm 499p (+15p)

FALLS:

London Comm 489p (-14p)

Covis 403p (-14p)

Enterprise 675p (-12p)

Plym Rail 490p (-12p)

Maiden 289p (-28p)

Wolsey 448p (-8p)

Marks Spencer 490p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 33

French in retreat

THE trouble with free markets is that they work. Capital pursues profit, prices go down as well as up and the asset sells to the highest bidder. However, free markets become a nightmare if you introduce a separate agenda — and so it is proving across the Channel. The French Government would like to sell Thomson, the consumer and defence electronics group. Heavily indebted, the group controls Thomson-CSF, the defence electronics business, which makes money and forms part of the elaborate jigsaw puzzle that is the European defence industry. Unfortunately it also owns Thomson Multimedia, a loss-making television maker.

Two separate bids emerged, both with foreign interests attached and both keen to link Thomson-CSF into a defence alliance. Alcatel was interested and is linked to

Britain's GEC but the Government plumped for Lagardere which has a missiles joint venture with British Aerospace. Needless to say, neither Lagardere nor Alcatel has any interest in a dual French TV manufacturer and Lagardere quickly signed up Daewoo to take it off their hands.

So what began as a tentative attempt to sort out the messy patchwork quilt of European defence companies became a battle to secure jobs at Thomson Multimedia. Having retreated from train drivers and truckers, the French Government finds it easy to prop up a dying consumer electronics industry. Within this policy mess, it is difficult to see how GEC or British Aerospace will ever assemble a European defence contractor capable of taking on the Americans. Unfortunately, at the Elysée Palace, the agenda is more parochial.

Williams

NOT a few quoted companies would feel privileged to own peripheral businesses such as those that Williams Holdings has shuffled off for £360 million. Brands such as Rawlplug may be household names in Britain, but for Williams that is too parochial and the company would rather be in products that also sell well in China.

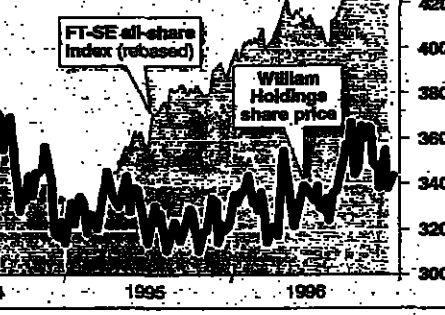
The sale was well flagged but Williams strove hard to use the occasion to correct any impression that it was not adding value. A net internal rate of return of 15 per cent for a business whose cost of capital is probably 10 to 11 per cent is impressive, not least given the recent weakness in the housing market.

If Williams is getting much better returns in its core businesses of fire protection and security, the share

Williams

rating is probably too low. But the depressing effect of the extra cash rules out much growth in earnings. Williams is no slouch at buying businesses, having spent some £230 million already this year. Yet the company also demonstrated yesterday that it is in a seller's market and having sold it is now on the expensive side of the bargain.

MORE SECURITY OVERSEAS



Carlton

MICHAEL GREEN, boss of Carlton Communications, may not be the biggest deal-maker in the TV industry, but it is not for lack of trying. Regulation, not conservatism, has held him back. As much as he would have loved to take M&A and ITV into his portfolio, he was simply unable to get around the restriction that prevents any ITV company from controlling more than 25 per cent of advertising.

Carlton is now trying to make a virtue out of necessity. With the recent purchase of tiny Westcountry Television, it has gone as far as it can go in commercial broadcasting. Henceforth, expansion will be in cable, satellite and digital pay-TV. With the arrival of so-called multi-channel television, pay channels are proliferating. Yet these specialised services will not be a goldmine: they count their viewers in the thousands, not millions. Carlton

Carlton

cannot rely on this market alone to keep its growth rates intact. The company has other businesses, such as film processing and the production of pre-recorded videos, and they are expanding smartly. But these businesses are smaller than the core TV division and their growth rates are bound to level off sooner or later. Carlton is simply running out of room in its home market. Until it secures a wider market outside the UK, its 20 per cent growth rates cannot be assured.

Kingfisher

LIKE an unruly family, Kingfisher can always count on one of its offspring to let the side down in public. Happily, yesterday's third-quarter trading figures were strong enough overall to allow a little bit of bad behaviour from the French side of the family. Darty, to be overlooked.

B&Q, for so long the prob-

lem child, is now the model student. It has taken full advantage of a sharp upswing in do-it-yourself spending and yesterday emerged with a 12.7 per cent increase in like-for-like sales.

Comet's organic sales growth of 13.9 per cent looks impressive and demonstrates that the region is not mopping up all the spare consumer cash, but Comet is rising from a very low base.

Even Woolworth — the maiden aunt who usually only comes to life at Christmas — had a strong third quarter, thanks to modernised stores.

This leaves Darty, the French electricals company, as the enfant terrible. And even there, in a market plagued with strikes and high unemployment, 0.4 per cent sales growth is not a bad showing. All in all, cheering news: the Kingfisher family is ready for a long-awaited Christmas spending binge.

Edited by CARL MORTIMER

COMMODITIES

LIFE

COCAOA

Dec 88-875 Mar 1010-1000

May 95-952 Jul 1010-1010

Sep 98-987 Dec 1010-1010

Dec 98-987

Volume 4573

ROBUSTA COFFEE (B)

Jan 1200-1150 Mar 1260-1250

May 1210-1200 Jul 1260-1250

Sep 1260-1250 Dec 1260-1250

Volume 900

WHITE SUGAR (JOB)

Mar 3040 Dec 2960-2950

May 2960-2950 Jul 3020-3010

Sep 3020-3010 Dec 3020-3010

Volume 902

MEAT & LIVESTOCK

COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative

markets on December 3

Cattle

GB 100 100 100 100 100 100

EU 100 100 100 100 100 100

EU 100 100 100 100 100 100

EU 100 100 100 100 100 100

EU 100 100 100 100 100 100

EU 100 100 100 100 100 100

EU 100 100 100 100 100 100

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURE

FTSE 100

Previous open interest: 6613

FTSE 250

Previous open interest: 50762

Three Month Sterling

Previous open interest: 50762

Three Mth Euro DM

Previous open interest: 111242

Long Gilt

Previous open interest: 10753

Japanese Govt Bond

Previous open interest: 107142

German Govt Bond

Previous open interest: 27044

Three month ECU

Previous open interest: 8345

Euro Swiss Franc

Previous open interest: 9882

Italian Govt Bond

Previous open interest: 107142

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6

Discount Rate 10.00% 10.00% 10.00%

Treasury Bills (Dec 5): 2 mth 6.5 mth 6.5 mth 6.5 mth 6.5 mth

Prime Bank Bills (Dec 5): 1 mth 6.5 mth 6.5 mth 6.5 mth 6.5 mth

Sterling Money Rates:

Local Authority Depos:

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Building Society CDE:

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

US accolade for Lloyd's

A CHANGE of heart from across the pond, where David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, has been hailed "insurance leader of the year". A number of British companies have been invited to join the board of trustees at The College of Insurance on January 30 in New York. What a turnaround to hear the US commend a chairman of Lloyd's of London for his "outstanding leadership in meeting the challenges of rebuilding and reviving Lloyd's". Makes a change from all the lawsuits.

THE latest person to leave Pannure Gordon since the takeover by Westdeutsche Landesbank is Christopher Wilkinson. The former joint head of corporate finance is on gardening leave, as of last Friday, before he heads off to join Kleinwort Benson.

Sack on offer

BROWN & ROOT, responsible for the Ealing refuse service, ran away with the "Scrooge of the Year" award yesterday from the GMB union. The US company earned the accolade after presenting 400 refuse collectors with the choice of a £1,500 pay cut, or the sack. So far, the GMB has distributed 100,000 bright orange refuse sacks to Ealing residents — with the slogan "Sack Brown & Root not your workforce" — which a GMB Santa Clause will pick up tomorrow.



"Says here you're creating 7,000 new jobs"

Buttoned up

A MARRIAGE made in the costume department... Angels & Bermans has bought Wig Creations for about £100,000. Since 1836, Angels has been providing costumes for theatre productions, and latterly for makers of TV programmes and films, while Wig Creations topped off the cast of *Star Wars*. The two companies are expected to join hands under one roof, at the central office of Angels in Cambridge Circus, London.

How we tick

YET another lengthy questionnaire lands on my desk, this time from Image Survey International. In its quest for "a vital British point of view", the market research company that is owned by Taloustukimms Oy, based in Finland, offers a strange reward for filling in the numerous boxes. I am still deliberating whether to go for the information pack on the traditions of the sauna, accompanied with genuine Finnish sauna soap, or the traditional Finnish lichenberry conserve, fresh from England's green forests.

Money men from Warburgs, Merrill Lynch, Salomons and Credit Lyonnais, to name but a hungry few, turned up in a state of high anticipation to last night's investor evening at Berkeley Playhouse. The copy named table dancing club, London's first, has been inundated with cheques. Be warned — rolls of film from the Dover Street agent are already in circulation.

MORAG PRESTON

A most unusual case is being prepared for the High Court. In it, the Government will sue itself in the hope that it can get out of a ruling made by its own watchdog. The Government's higher purpose is to save taxpayers' money. If it wins — or should that read loses — it will heroically keep down the pensions of 80,000 relatively low-paid workers, many of whose working lives it has already wrecked in the cause of a theoretical experiment.

The notice issued the day after the Budget was capably headed "Government offers to pay legal costs in NBC pensions case". Via the usual written parliamentary question, Sir George Young, Transport Secretary, offered public funds (within limits) to pay the legal costs of National Bus Company pension fund trustees, should they wish to ask the High Court whether the Government should repay the surplus from an NBC pension fund. That surplus is now reckoned to be worth £200 million.

The letter conveying Sir George's offer gave the game away. It is sent from the Department of Transport, Marsham Street, to Andrew Murray, chief trustee, care of the Department of Transport, Marsham Street. Mr Murray is a senior DoT civil servant, one of whose duties was to act as trustee for the long-defunct fund.

National Bus was the state-owned English bus network. Between 1983 and 1988, it was privatised in an unusual way. NBC was broken into 80 small pieces, many sold to management for peanuts. The pension funds and the company were wound up in

By George, a £200m court case threatens company pensions

1990-91, when the DoT took over residual assets and liabilities.

As we now know, the bus experiment was largely a waste of time and public money. The pieces were to inhabit a bright new world of free and wholesome competition. Instead, a handful of monopolistic firms have painstakingly been put back together by takeover bids or failures, thanks occasionally to behaviour that a fed-up Monopolies and Mergers Commission once described as "predatory, deplorable and against the public interest".

If taxpayers got a bad deal, bus workers fared worse. Over eight years, the MMC found that bus drivers' pay fell an average 12 per cent in real terms. The National Audit Office found that proceeds of privatisation were so low that the biggest return came from the Government pocketing the surplus on NBC pension funds. No wonder Francis Wheeler, a Lancashire busworker since retired on £170 a month, complained to the former ombudsman in 1991 after the DoT pocketed £168 million.

In September this year, Julian Farrand, the new ombudsman, directed the trustees "to take, without delay, all practicable steps



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

to obtain the return of monies paid from the scheme's fund in breach of trust" plus interest. There is no appeal from the ombudsman except on a point of law. Mr Murray asked the DoT for its proposals. He did not receive a cheque by return.

Normally, in such a case, Dr Farrand would direct the company or employer to pay up. The DoT would then have had a month to appeal. But the ombudsman only received that power in April 1991, a month after Mr Wheeler's complaint. So the Government has arranged to take an action

against itself via a new trustee supplied by the Official Solicitor, in what Sir George hopes will be "as co-operative and speedy manner as possible". Oddly, this prevents the ombudsman from defending his judgment as party to the case.

Why appoint a watchdog or regulator if you do not accept his findings, as ministers constantly advise business people to do? Perhaps the Treasury thinks that Dr Farrand, though seemingly a sound man, became crazed with his powers and set himself up as a Robin Hood of the pensions forest. But no. Dr Farrand was appointed because of his previous record as insurance ombudsman. Peter Lilley, Social Services Secretary, wanted an active champion at a time when confidence in occupational pensions was at a dismal low.

The ombudsman complained in his last annual report of rising delays and expense because too many people were appealing. No doubt on the advice of the lawyers whose opinions his rulings rejected. There are 44 court appeals outstanding. Sir George now says "the department's accounting officer would need to know conclusive reasons for making the payment". If an ombudsman's

direction is not enough authority to pay public money, anyone in the private sector will surely be advised not to meet an award before appealing.

Like many a grasping 1980s employer, the Government just wants the surplus. People are being paid secure pensions, rails Sir George. Why should they also get "the windfall" from public money, that repayment of the surplus would represent?

Dr Farrand's judgment explains why. When National Bus was broken up and the scheme wound up, ministers refused to guarantee members' pension rights in annuities purchased, even though actuaries said the fund had a healthy surplus. Instead, the state company board gave the trustees an ultimatum. It would stop contributions until the surplus disappeared, unless they settled for a slightly cheaper version of preserved benefits and changed the trust deed so that any surplus in a winding-up would go to the company instead of members. No one who has been one will be surprised that the trustees caved in to such heavy pressure. Dr Farrand ruled that NBC had breached its trust.

The ombudsman recently won a seemingly similar case over a Hillsdown pension scheme. Mr Justice Knox found that the company put undue pressure on trustees to change the rules so that it could pocket a surplus. Hillsdown merely damaged its already dim image. If the Government avoids repayment, the ultimate loser will be the occupational pension scheme movement it is so keen to promote.

Philip Bassett analyses the issues at the first ministerial summit of the WTO in Singapore

Free traders pursue the great prize

Government ministers, their advisers and business organisation officials from around the world will today begin packing their bags to head for Singapore with the aim of setting clear priorities for global free trade.

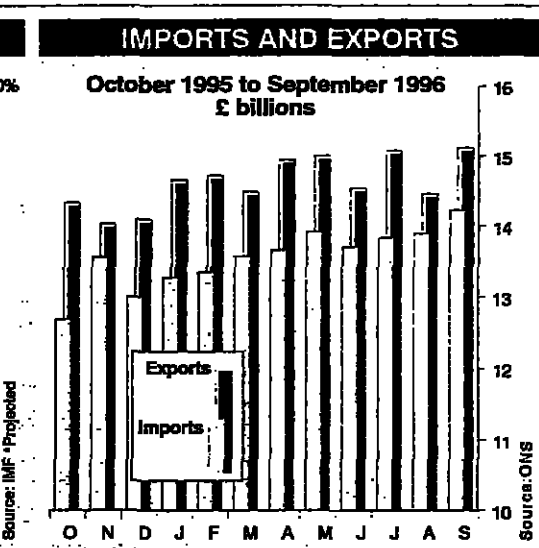
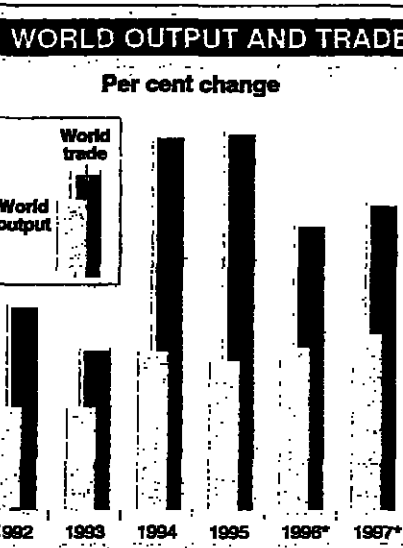
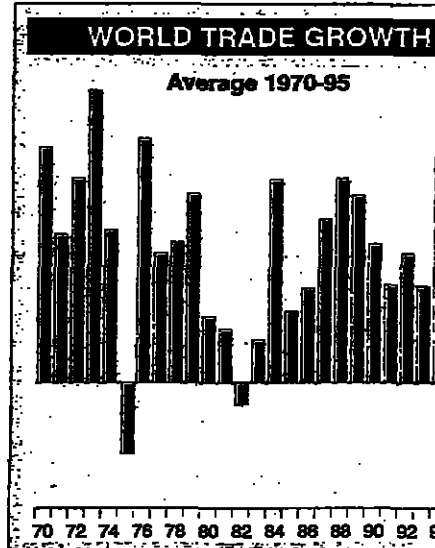
For British companies Singapore may seem more than half a world away from their own concerns. But Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, says: "Free trade is the essential underpinning. Open markets create opportunities for growth, investment and employment."

"They keep up the competitive pressure on firms and improve efficiency. They give exporting firms the potential to increase sales and to take advantage of economies of scale. At home, they mean lower prices, and greater choice."

Mr Lang, who faced close questioning on free trade in the Commons yesterday, will lead the UK's delegation to the first ministerial summit of the World Trade Organisation — the international body provides for agreement on trade relations between 130 countries.

The WTO succeeded the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), but differs significantly from it. It is a permanent, fully staffed body, not just little more than a set of rules. It also has a wider remit, covering areas such as services and intellectual property as well as trade in goods.

Based in Geneva, the WTO was formed on January 1 last year as one of the outcomes of the seven-year "Uruguay round" of trade talks. It continued the pattern since GATT was set up in 1947 of reducing trade



protection at borders by cutting tariffs. The Uruguay round is set to lead to a 40 per cent cut in developed countries' tariffs on industrial production. While the Uruguay round barely touched some key areas like agricultural protectionism, its inclusion of services is seen as vital, and UK ministers like Mr Lang are fond of making far-reaching claims for it: that ten years after its completion, its effect could boost world trade by up to 24 per cent, and world incomes by more than \$500 billion annually.

In overall terms, the illustrations indicate, world trade has over the past decade grown faster than world output, and particularly the development of regional liberalisation arrangements, such as the European single market, probably the single most ambi-

tious liberalisation package in the world. While both the IMF and the OECD are forecasting a fall in world trade growth this year, they see it accelerating modestly next year and after.

Singapore will see a number of clashes, but a fundamental one is between countries which want to see a consolidation of the Uruguay round, and others which want further progress. Britain is divided: the Government wants to push on, but business wants to hold fire.

Mr Lang says: "Some countries have said that the digestion of the Uruguay round results is all they can cope with. I want to make very clear that that is not enough. We must drive the agenda forward." But in a strategy paper to the Government, the CBI said: "Business needs pragmatic liberalisation, which means consolidating existing achievements

before setting new goals." CBI leaders are wary about the objectives already flagged by Mr Lang: a new work programme for the WTO, a new trade round at the end of the century, to be completed by 2010, and full global free trade by 2020. Business leaders believe that such specific dates may prove counterproductive in the slow consensual dance of world trade negotiations.

Privately, UK ministers accept that little immediate progress towards these goals will be made in Singapore, though in a pre-Singapore conference today Mr Lang will highlight the kind of liberalisation that he would like the world to emulate, such as privatisation. But Britain will press hard in Singapore on a number of other issues: if a new and

substantial work programme is not obtainable, ministers believe that the WTO conference will build on President Clinton's recent deal with 18 Asia Pacific countries and strike a new liberalising agreement on information technology.

Britain wants to see two other outcomes: progress on talks to liberalise basic telecommunications, where talks are set to conclude in February, and no progress at all on what is likely to be the most contentious issue at Singapore: international labour standards.

First raised by the US, with the support of the European Union, as far back as 1987, the idea of a social clause, under which trade deals and sanctions would be linked to minimum employment standards, is highly controversial. Those in favour, including the EU, Norway and the EU,

argue that a political declaration on minimum labour standards is vital to maintain support for a system of multilateral trade in industrialised countries where many employees feel under threat from foreign low-wage competition. Countries against, including India, Indonesia, Malaysia and the UK, all believe that their lower labour costs give them a comparative advantage against competitor economies.

Yeoh Chow Tong, Singapore's Trade Minister, who will chair the conference, says that, unresolved, the issue could become "a stumbling block to progress on all other issues". Even compromise proposals, promoted by the EU among others, for a working party on the issue now seem unlikely to be accepted. In Britain, where organisations like Oxfam support a working party, some

companies are already moving on it, such as C&A, J Sainsbury and Body Shop.

If Labour is elected, Britain's stance may change. Stuart Bell, Labour's Shadow Trade Minister, said: "If we win, that will change the balance of power in the WTO." An internal Labour document, *New Labour and the WTO*, makes clear that Labour will push for a social clause — but not at the expense of introducing covert protectionism for industrialised countries.

A way from the thorny social issues, British business wants the WTO to emulate the OECD's work on international investment rules, with Japan also backing moves to ensure that outside firms get similar treatment to national investors in all WTO member countries. Other vexed issues include trade and the environment, American feet-dragging over financial services and slow progress on textiles and agriculture. WTO members are also anguishing over the growth of bilateral regional trade arrangements and the potential impact of new WTO members, such as China, Taiwan and Russia.

Business in Britain is cautious about "overstretching" the WTO, insisting to the Government that the WTO's work must be "realistic and achievable". Singapore will see some hard talking, tough bargaining and devious manipulating as countries angle for positions. As Mr Lang says: "The pursuit of free trade is never easy. But the prize is great."

Adding a touch of fizz to the Christmas office party

Morag Preston checks out the scenes and themes for a bash



Companies are keen to ensure party night is one to remember

THE office Christmas party is the boss's chance to thank his staff en masse. Outside the office, however, colleagues can be at their most critical.

A tray of indifferent vol-auvents, or a three-course meal with mundane conversation, is meagre fuel for a successful next year. So, in a desperate bid to win loyalty, companies are taking every opportunity to make sure that theirs is a night to remember.

Twenty-four hours after the news of Nick Leeson's huge losses broke, Barings was on the phone to Planit Events, the London party organiser, to confirm that its Christmas party would go ahead.

Simmons & Simmons, NatWest Markets, Coopers & Lybrand, Charterhouse, Société Générale and Merrill Lynch have since followed suit, hosting staff parties on the site of the former Spitalfields market. Run by Will and Di Bailey, a husband and wife team, this year's party theme is Venetian masquerade. "It's like going to a play — it's extremely theatrical," Mr Bailey says.

Selling the idea of hosting a party for 1,500 on the site of a former market as opposed to the comfort of one of the Park Lane hotels was not easy. "Venues like these have a reputation — if anything goes wrong they can easily blame the hotel," says Mr Bailey, who organised a May Ball for 1,700 during his student days at Cirencester. "Numbers excite me, they never frighten me," he boasts after 15 years celebrating the festive season at the Grosvenor House.

He puts down the success of his parties to their widespread

appeal. "It all sounds great that you're going to put the chairman next to the postbox and that they're going to get on for two hours over dinner," he says. "But by the time the dancing starts, they're in no mood to enjoy themselves, so they go to the bar, have far too much to drink, and then you get problems." Instead, Planit spends £150,000 every year,

setting up bars, buffets, entertainers, dodgems and dance floors. Guests are whizzed by taxi from work to marquee and a welcoming glass of buck's fizz. Some head straight for the dodgers. "They're a wonderful ice-breaker," says Mr Bailey, adding that John Bolsover, then Barings chief executive, could not be persuaded from them. Planit's events are

all-inclusive. For £45 a head, guests are fed (3,000 chickens a season) and can help themselves to any amount of wine or beer (6,000 gallons a season). There is also a pay bar for those who prefer spirits.

Occasionally a gatecrasher or "ruffian" has to be ejected. One excited employee climbed a palm tree at an Arabian Nights party and tried to set it alight. Worst of all, says Mr Bailey, was the year that a company forgot to deliver the beer for a party for De Beers; it turned up two hours later. Increasing the tax limit for staff entertainment from £50 to £75 last year has made an enormous difference, says Mr Bailey. "It gives us a lot more scope and companies have a lot more choice." So far themes have included pantomime and circus. Treasure Island is pencilled in for next year.

Between November 28 and December 20, Planit Events will host a party every night. In February it will start taking bookings for next year.

By the millennium, the Baileys hope to be catering for parties of a quarter of a million people; they are opening a site half a mile from Liverpool Street station.

Since the company started at the end of the recession, organising parties for about 800 people, it has watched the competition creep up. Christmas Events, The Ultimate Experience, and Elegant Days, whose themes have included "The Night in Rio" and "Gatcrash the Kremlin", all organise gigantic office get-togethers.

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BY CLARE STEWART

Roger Carr, Williams chief executive, said the deal had achieved an excellent price. "It represents an exit multiple of

Tempus, page 28

Tempos page 28



BY FRASER NELSON

The company, chaired by Alan Elliot, said the sales surge which normally happens in August failed to

The City had expected slightly worse after Blick's profits warning in October, and its shares rose to 354p yesterday, from a four-year 340p low.

its total loan to £23 million (£12.4 million), taking gearing to 97 per cent. Blick still plans a record £2 million spend on organic growth this year.

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

Admissions to the company's bingo clubs were flat, on a like-for-like basis, against a background of a general decline in the sector. Revenues rose 4 per cent and the company said that improvement in first-half performance had been maintained.

TGI increases dividend

Jobs boost in Newport

KYUSHU, Matsushita Electric of Japan yesterday announced expansion plans at Newport, South Wales. The company is investing £11 million and creating 100 new jobs to make a new line of digitally enhanced mobile phones. The move will also safeguard the company's existing 110 workers. 100 jobs will also be created in the insurance sector in Newport after HSBC Gibbs announced expansion plans in the town.

HADLEIGH, a maker of industrial storage tanks, improved its interim pre-tax profits by 45 per cent to £953,000. Sales in the six months to September 27 were 19 per cent higher at £15.2 million. Operating profits of just short of £1 million represented an improved return on sales of 6.5 per cent. Hadleigh has net cash of £1.4 million, and is continuing to invest in its manufacturing facilities. The interim dividend, to be paid on January 10, rises 29 per cent to 2.25p a share.

VICTORIA Carpet Holdings, which makes Axminster carpets, reported a pre-tax profit of £2 million for the six months to September 30, a jump from only £22,000 last year. Most of the improvement came from a £1.8 million insurance payout on a fire at its Castlemeane spinning mill in Australia. Operating profits improved 10 per cent to £400,000. The company is seeking acquisitions in the UK and expects borrowings to rise. There is no interim dividend.

LEIGH INTERESTS, the waste management company, suffered a decline in pre-tax profits to £3.6 million from £4.2 million in the six months to September 28. The fall would have been greater but for a £20,000 exceptional profit on the sale of Leigh's Hartlepool depot. Turnover fell to £55 million from £60.6 million and earnings per share were 3.6p a share (4.4p). Leigh will pay an unchanged interim dividend of 1.23p a share on January 30.

CALLUNA, the miniature disk drive manufacturer, is raising £4.7 million through a rights issue to fund the development of a new disk drive range. New shares are offered at 50p each, on the basis of two new shares for every 11 held. Existing shares fell 5p to 53½p yesterday. The company also reported an increase in losses to £2 million from £1.6 million in the half-year to September 30. Losses were 3.7p a share (2.9p loss). Again there is no interim dividend.

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£50,000+	5.25%	5.35%
£25,000-£49,999	4.25%	4.31%
£10,000-£24,999	4.00%	4.06%
7 Day Notice Deposit Account:		
	1.00%	1.00%
TESSA*	6.375%	6.52%
Charity TESSA*	5.75%	5.875%

- Interest is paid quarterly Interest is paid half-yearly
- Interest is payable on reserve account balances below the minimum level at a gross rate of 1% p.a. (Gross C.A.R. 1%)
- Interest will be paid after deducting tax (where applicable) at the prescribed rate, subject to status for tax purposes
- The gross compounded annual rate is the rate where gross interest payments are retained on the account during the year.
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ACCOUNTANCY

Bank on sound supervision

David Mallett points to a need for some forceful application by supervisors of the banking rulebook

Just for now, banking supervision is of more than usual interest, with the Governor of the Bank of England appearing before the Commons Treasury Committee as his supervisors roll out recommendations of the Arthur Andersen report and the review of banking supervision.

Twenty-five years ago, banking supervision was a visit from a man in a top hat who asked a few questions. Ten years ago, the management of regulatory relationships would not have been high on a list of a bank's tasks. Today, they observe regulatory requirements punctiliously and seek constructive supervisory relationships.

The key is still the right top team, the right direction and the right culture. However, recent articles in the *Financial* show that the debate about banking supervision is only beginning.

Thomas Hoenig argues that changes in the financial markets, globalisation, complex

systematic risk assessment, stronger supervisory tools, reinforcing the supervisory team and quality assurance.

The Deputy Governor got to the heart of the process in the first issue of *Financial Stability Review* since the changes, saying: "Management competence is a crucial ingredient of sound banking. Supervisors must know senior management well enough to be able to make informed judgments about their competence. That cannot be done by rulebook-based examiners focusing on compliance."

He acknowledges that it risks charges of "cronyism, the cosy chats, the old school tie attitude" but in my experience there is none of that now and there was none during my time at the Bank. However, if this regulatory tool is to be used, the Bank must think hard about what is going on at the top of banks.

The key is still the right top team, the right direction and the right culture. However, recent articles in the *Financial* show that the debate about banking supervision is only beginning.

Thomas Hoenig argues that changes in the financial markets, globalisation, complex



David Mallett shows the supervision debate is just beginning

new activities and financial instruments mean that the traditional approach will not work. He suggests a two-tier system where those engaged in complex activities are safeguarded by secure payments systems and lower inter-bank risk but give up access to government safety nets and

depositor protection in return for less regulation. Regulators would concentrate on traditional banks, serving the wider public.

Michael Taylor offers four options: greater emphasis on assessing risk management systems; more emphasis on market disciplines, arising

from greater disclosure; Mr Hoenig's radical approach underwriting banks with private sector "cross-guarantees".

Charles Goodhart records the expense of close and detailed supervision and that bank failures are generally not caused by the failed control mechanisms but the failure to operate them. He acknowledges the quality of management is crucial but suggests that because it is subjective and without objective measure, it is difficult for supervisors to condition their judgments on it.

I am not sure that I agree. Every chairman and every chief executive makes judgments about the quality of the board and top management. They remove poor performers and those unwilling to live by the company's risk appetite and controls. Perhaps then, the possibility of a forceful application by the supervisors of the Banking Act rules and its own guidelines and some courageous judgment calls, made by supervisors, could mean that the Bank would not have to return to the Treasury Committee to explain another bank failure.

David Mallett is group financial controller of Standard Chartered and co-author of *Banking: An Industry Accounting and Auditing Guide* (E80, Accountancy Books, PO Box 620, Milton Keynes; telephone 01908 248000).

Comparability and no fudge, please

THE revolution that has given us a report and accounts from two of the "Big Six" accountancy firms was supposed to make things clearer. This week's publication of figures from Ernst & Young is a considerable improvement on the report produced by KPMG back in January.

However, what none of this has done is make the substance of the top accountancy firms, as a group, clearer to the outside world. If anything, the picture is getting murkier. This year we have had something approaching full accounts from KPMG and E&Y, a glossy report with a few paragraphs of figures hidden away in the back from Coopers & Lybrand, basic fee-income figures from Arthur Andersen and from Deloitte & Touche, and a deathly silence and no figures of any sort from Price Waterhouse.

There are three pressures on firms to publish. The general expectation of the public is there. The Government has dropped hints that if it does come up with a formula to allow limited liability partnerships, a quid pro quo would be full disclosure. And there is the third — and most compelling — reason, cited by Nick Land, E&Y's unfashionably youthful senior partner. If you are effectively running a change management programme within the firm and emphasising openness, you can hardly keep the financial figures secret.

In the past, there was an annual league table for the "Big Six" and medium-size firms. It was rough and ready. Figures were restated to a common year-end. Peculiar inclusions and exclusions distorted them. And they showed only fee income. There was no word on profitability. But once KPMG went public, the others decided to abandon the league table.

So, if anything, we now have less information, certainly less comparable information. But these are early days. With firms such as Stoy Hayward and, tomorrow, Pannell Kerr Forster publishing figures too, the movement is on its way. Sooner rather than later, all firms wanting a significant role in the market will publish full figures.

We can only hope that, by then, someone will have sorted out a common basis for them to do so. E&Y was at pains to point out that its remuneration figures were much more truthful than those of KPMG earlier in the year because E&Y is an integrated national partnership, whereas KPMG still has region-

al fiefdoms and a strange, and soon to be abandoned, "general partnership".

The result is that it is hard to compare E&Y and KPMG. Take remuneration. KPMG pulled in the consultant Heidrick & Struggles to calculate a notional executive remuneration figure, to which were added pensions contributions and "proprietorship profit". E&Y has, more simply, shown the profit share, the pension contribution and the interest partners receive on their capital in the firm. Even this hardly gives an accurate figure. Most partners, particularly younger ones, will have a net borrowing position on their capital in the firm. They will have borrowed around £100,000 from a bank and will be paying interest on it at, says Land, base rate plus one and a quarter points. The partnership pays interest back on this capital to partners of base rate plus one point. So, showing interest paid to partners alone does not tell the full story.

In E&Y, the bulk of the partners earned a basic profit share of £100,000 to £200,000.

The equivalent figure for KPMG was rather less. But that is largely because we are trying to compare apples with railway stations. You cannot make the sort of comparisons taken for granted in, say, the retail business.

One thing that is clear, though, is that the traditions of the firm continue. In the old Whinney Murray days, partnership earnings did not stretch from a hugely-paid senior partner down to a lowly-paid junior partner. There was a bunching of similarly-paid partners and no great disparity from top to bottom. That seems to be continuing. The figure for KPMG's senior partner, Colin Shanahan, of £740,000 is quite dramatic against Nick Land's relatively modest £420,000.

What is now needed is for as many of the other firms as possible to show a bit of courage and produce their own reports and accounts. The only way current confusion can be sorted out is by the normal process of any system of disclosure. The more information the outside world is shown, the better it will be analysed and understood. That process will shape the form and substance of future disclosures. Nick Land said: "We have sought to fudge nothing," which is an unusual thing for an accountant to say. With future changes in legal structures for professional firms and change looming on litigation, it is a principle that other senior partners will have to embrace.



ROBERT BRUCE

Innovation in citation

AT THE launch of Ernst & Young's report and accounts there was much talk of its new global initiative called "Audit Innovation". This is due to be rolled out to clients next year. But a few have already been used as guinea pigs. One of these was cited by E&Y's senior partner, Nick Land, at the results presentation. "For the first time I have seen 'added value' from auditors who until now I had seen as an essential

cost of doing business," ran the quote from the UK managing director of Hilton International. Could this chap be any relation to Hilton's executive vice-president for development, one David Wilson, who until a few years back was an E&Y partner?

Surprise account

THERE can be few accountants who could claim to have

appeared in a makeshift play in the House of Lords in the aftermath of a Budget speech. Step forward reluctant thespian Tony de Guingand, Life's director of finance. He appeared as the Franciscan monk, Luca Pacioli, the inventor of double-entry bookkeeping, in a play devised by Robert Bittlestone, the managing director of Metapragis, for the consultancy's Christmas party. It was a lively perfor-

mance though we still don't understand why a monk appeared in dog-collar and surplice.

Model rift

UNTIL last week the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) was the model of accountancy profession co-operation. All six UK bodies sponsored the AAT, which provides a qualification for

accounting technicians. It has been widely regarded as one of the profession's great successes. All six bodies are represented on its board. One of the representatives is Professor Mike Harvey, a past president of the certified accountants. Imagine the AAT's amazement when last week the certified accountants gave it a day's notice of the fact that it was going to set up a rival. "Unprofessional" is the least of the epithets that have been flying about.

ROBERT BRUCE

BRITAIN'S INVESTMENT IN TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS THE ECONOMY



Technology has always been at the heart of the aerospace industry, and the Airbus family of airliners is no exception.

In just 25 years a wide range of sophisticated airliners has been developed, each successive model involving the steady application of modern technology.

As a result, Europe's Airbus partnership, of which British Aerospace is an important member, has grown from nothing to being one of the world's two leading aircraft manufacturers, and has captured over a third of the entire market for large civil airliners. Over 2,000 Airbus aircraft have been sold to airlines around the globe.

This success story has created a whole industry. In Britain, the Airbus programmes actively support 25,000 jobs in over 300 companies, and contribute £1 billion a year to the trade balance. These high-value-added, wealth creating aircraft programmes account for more than 1.5 percent of Britain's total manufacturing sales abroad.

Britain is reaping the rewards from investing in research over the years. Through a close partnership between government and industry, continuing development of our expertise in technology will enable Airbus to build further on today's success, multiplying the handsome dividends the programmes are paying to the economy and to jobs in the UK.

AIRBUS. A GREAT BRITISH SUCCESS THE WORLD OVER

BRITISH AEROSPACE

BRITISH AEROSPACE AIRBUS LIMITED, NEW FULTON HOUSE, BRISTOL BS99 7AR

THE TIMES THURSDAY DECEMBER 5 1996

	Sell	Buy	+/-
East Group Inc	230.00	245.49	+ 2.10
Waste Ventures Inc	93.39	99.29	+ 0.80
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND HEIGHT			
0131 668 3726			
Equity Inc	451.30	462.00	+ 1.80
-do-Accum	707.70	734.60	+ 2.70
UK High Inc	220.50	228.28	+ 1.20
-do-Accum	342.10	364.50	+ 1.60
Europe Inc	484.30	514.56	+20.00

Global Acc	258.70	258.70	+ 7.00	0.0
UK Spots Site Inc	133.59	142.40	+ 8.80	6.6
South East Asia	232.90	245.30	+ 4.19	1.8
Cash Trans	100.00	100.00		5.0
UK Supply Chain Inc	126.10	134.50	+ 0.10	1.1
UK Supply Chain Inc	132.60	143.40	+ 0.10	1.1
Intl Stamp	92.94	88.67	+ 1.90	5.0

SWAP (ALBERT E)
 Expire: 01/27/27 300 Dmbling: 01/27/27 01/27/27
 European 163.40 172.00 + 2.39 0.0
 Asia America 148.40 156.26 + 0.99 0.0
 Asia America 148.40 156.26 + 0.99 0.0

Portfolio's Holdings	11/18/80	12/1/80	+/-	%
MasterCard	114.00	124.80	+ 10.80	0.1
IBM General	169.00	178.70	+ 9.70	0.2
Fair Credit	92.46	97.33	+ 4.87	0.99

SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0777 029 0228				
LN Equity Inv	108.26		- 0.47	4
Growth Reserve	101.26		+ 0.02	4
Preferred Income	104.57		- 0.18	5
Tel Port	112.31		+ 1.67	
Asia	86.76		+ 2.03	
Asian Gld Fund	129.73		+ 1.33	
Revenue	132.00		+ 2.05	

Servcorp	53.63	+ 0.97	1
UK Sports	130.77	- 0.79	2
UK Entry Leaders	100.59	- 0.35	2
Investment Trust	113.29	+ 0.14	1
Poll Up	96.35		
Global Growth FCP	71.82	- 0.25	+ 0.73
Low Tech FCP	58.86	- 0.51	+ 1.25
Prod Inc FCP	104.50	71.50	

SMITH & WILLIAMSON LT MGRS			
0171 687 5577			
American	444.70	470.58	+ 7.50
Capital	145.90	135.20	+ 0.60
Cash	100.92	100.92	

Growth:	149.50	179.30	+ 1.30	1
Income %:	141.80	179.00	+ 0.50	4.00
Adverse:	154.00	164.70	+ 0.70	1.00
Sales Sales:	329.00	252.10	+ 1.00	0.00
Throughput:	179.40	162.60	+ 0.90	1.00

SOVEREIGN UNIT TEST MGRS LTD.

01222 288 422				
Chief Planner	57.81	61.79	- 0.06	7.00
Chief	62.18	67.69	+ 0.38	0.00
European Growth	63.16	66.21	+ 0.66	0.00
Income	61.29	65.37	+ 0.07	1.00
and Growth	112.99	118.55	+ 0.70	0.00
		108.32	+ 0.96	0.00

STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS			
0800 33 33 53			
Standard Life Fund Mgrs Ltd			
Global Adm Inc	47.15	47.39	+ 0.40
Global Adm Acc	51.30	51.65	+ 0.50
Income Adm Inc	38.49	38.88	+ 0.20
Income Adm Acc	42.92	43.14	+ 0.20
UK Equity Gd Inc	105.47	115.80	+ 4.40
Prudential Inc	48.88	52.29	+ 0.61
Prudential Acc	54.01	56.85	+ 0.62
Investment Acc	85.12	88.03	+ 0.89
UK Eq Hb Inc	42.04	44.57	+ 0.20
UK Eq Hb Acc	56.03	56.40	+ 0.20

UK Equity S&P Acc	81.01	86.95	+0.30	1.5
UK Equity Gen Inc	58.63	61.53	+0.40	1.5
UK & Pwr Inc Inc	32.14	33.88	+0.30	1.5
Omnia Lys Co Inc	284.40	295.41	+6.10	1.4
7th American Acc	68.09	63.65	-0.70	1.4
Pacific Route	45.95	48.86	+0.60	0.1
European Acc	68.83	63.79	-1.10	0.4
Japan Acc	24.71	26.26	+0.40	0.4

STATE STREET LT INVEST LTD				
UT71 344 7000				
Global A (R25)	4.738	5.033	-0.089	1.2
US East (R25)	3.642	3.862	-0.052	1.2
Pwr East (R25)	258.00	274.98	-7.20	0.2

FT A Asia (US\$)	2,630	3,000	-2,500
FT Japan (¥)	221.30	233.70	-8.50
FT Asia Excl Jpn (¥)	1.122	1.378	-3.80

STEWART HAWK UNIT LTD MGRS LTD
0531 228 3271

American	554.00	587.30	+13.90
British	132.70	135.40	+ 2.40
European Mkt	157.40	167.80	+10.20
Euro Smlt Co	61.74	65.75	+ 4.00
Japan	117.40	124.50	+ 7.10
New Pacific	442.00	472.00	+ 3.00
-de- Account	477.00	505.70	+14.50
Top Trngt Acc	203.80	222.00	+18.00

STAN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD	01277 227 300	01277 880 388	
Equity	1111.80	1598.00	- 5.10
North America	207.50	221.80	- 2.80
Pay East	185.10	177.80	+ 1.80
Western Bond	58.12	61.99	- 0.96
Compass	144.30	154.98	- 1.88
Equity Income &	108.78	117.30	- 0.52
Potential	112.80	121.50	- 0.40
UK Leading Cos	98.93	98.37	- 0.32
High Inc Bond	50.90	50.69	- 0.04
Brokers Trans			

SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MEMBS LTD			
0800 525 725			
Advantage UT	34.43	23.89	+ 0.14
Chap. 66 S&P Inc	58.67	184.97	8.00
Chap. 67 of S&P Inc	103.14	100.77	0.10
Corporate	48.25	52.50	+ 0.45
High Income	35.34	36.93	- 0.13
Japan	31.41	33.42	+ 0.72
International Accounts	24.84	158.41	- 0.84
Northern American	47.74	50.79	+ 0.28
South Ch's Inc	37.88	48.10	- 0.86
South Ch's Acc.	41.41	44.06	- 0.86
UK Eurotel Inc	63.61	68.80	- 2.86

WashState Crds	41.42	44.30	+ 0.45	0.07
SBC Financial Grps				
Adco & Co. Inc. B	32.91	33.93	+ 0.31	1.47
Equimont Envtl	97.25	100.26	+ 0.19	1.40
Japan Exempt	26.55	27.49	+ 0.59	0.12
US Exempt	99.87	102.99	+ 0.59	1.13

SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD				
Adm'n & Exp. 01771 696 4044	Exp. 0171 696 6010			
Discretionary	51.22	50.67	- 0.25	
Cap Prm'd Inv	45.80	51.92		28.51
UK Exempt	62.61	66.81		3.72
Mutual Econ Trs Inc F	26.18	28.24		6.21

UK Shafter Cos	42.07	44.76	1.70
Pacific S&B Post	53.19	56.59	0.63
TEN UNIT TRUSTS			
01264 346 794			
Promised	323.76	342.60	+ 2.76
-to- Accrual	356.60	377.26	+ 2.36
Revised	422.75	433.50	+ 0.75
-to- Accrual	130.55	132.47	+ 0.40
European	124.78	134.16	+ 0.70
-to- Accrual	135.45	143.30	+ 0.75
East Income #	211.68	224.60	+ 0.48
-to- Accrual #	308.32	311.98	+ 0.86

General	262.00	264.04	- 0.77	1.77
-to Account	777.30	822.54	- 1.53	1.77
Transfer Income	32.30	34.59	- 2.03	0.61
-to Account	122.14	137.25	- 5.04	6.17
Interest of	391.25	431.26	- 40.01	3.08
-to Account	596.75	646.94	- 1.35	3.08
Payable	438.23	429.80	- 4.32	2.05
-to Account	426.96	451.71	- 4.54	8.05
International	538.03	573.04	- 5.03	0.08
-to Account	536.55	556.53	- 2.53	0.08
Net Income	778.26	788.38	- 0.94	0.26
Stock Opps	134.24	136.71	- 0.33	0.82
-to Account	789.23	779.19	- 0.03	0.92
Payable	82.18	86.08	- 0.91	1.02

de-Accum	67.85	82.94	-	0.09	1.36
High Income	71.08	75.21	-	0.16	4.06
de-Accum	96.50	102.12	-	0.21	4.01
Int Income	93.95	98.32	-	0.34	4.51
de-Accum	84.26	88.15	-	0.45	4.61
Smaller Traders	87.57	71.29	-	1.86	4.68
de-Accum	85.53	90.52	-	0.02	4.28
TI FUND MANAGERS LIMITED					
0181 087 1012					
British	415.43	441.51	-	1.51	2.33
European	75.14	76.73	-	0.37	1.51

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Apex	380.67	215.00	+2.07
IN Blue Chip	80.82	84.31	-0.45
AP Growth	691.29	743.39	-1.23
BE High Yield A	118.36	122.03	-0.50
IN Info Cap	320.01	253.03	+0.67
IN State Corp	123.77	102.16	+0.88
OC State Corp Div	83.10	87.48	-0.35
UNITED FINANCIAL BY ISSUANCE LTD			
01277 080 380			
UK Equity Income	116.32	123.74	-0.54
IN Equity Growth	104.54	111.21	-0.67
European	78.08	83.67	-0.92
IN American	98.18	94.87	+0.13

WATER	72.70	72.36		4.01
Plant Interest of	81.89	80.29	- 1.60	7.88
Indian Land Ltd	74.21	70.84	- 0.26	1.22
VERISON DIRECT PPG LTD				
60-65 953500				
Insurance Total	109.85	105.85	- 4.00	0.00
Plant Costs	101.83	101.83		..
Power from Plants	101.69	100.67		..
UK Sales Training @	133.71	132.71	- 0.42	2.80
WATERLEY UNIT TEST MGMT LTD				
01-21 225 1951				

Black Hawk	4020	4030	4040
Black Hawk (186)	0.3151	0.3532	-0.0381
Penny Share	41.80	41.18	-1.30
Japan Steel Cos	38.46	40.16	-0.08

WHITINGSDALE UNIT TEST MGMT LTD
8177 825 2044

Cougar	90.92	93.73	+ 0.35	2.90
Low Cost Oil	125.30	126.80		
US Steel (186)	0.7958	0.7971	+ 0.30	
Oil Income	52.17	54.28	+ 0.19	8.40
Oil Growth	70.58	81.78	-0.21	
Stamper Bond	64.47	64.29	-0.27	6.60

WOLSKEL CORP. FUND INVESTMENTS, LTD.					
\$100,000,000					
Net Assets	\$1.39	\$1.86	-	0.52	2.84
Net Shareholders	105,050	112,550	-	0.51	2.45
Corporate Net Inc	49.85	46.78	-	0.03	0.56
Per Account	\$1.24	\$1.37	-	0.48	0.55

Source: FT Information

* Yields reported as CAR (Corporate Annual Return) for dividend; Middle price. No significant data.

© Periodic Change reported from capital. © Est. Change.

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Start Date	1/25/82		
End Date (MM)	1/25/82	0.00	0.00
Est Income	10.17	0.7971	0.81
Est Income	10.17	1.00	0.40
Est Growth	70.00	0.7170	0.00
Company Size	35.47	0.258	0.27

WOODMACHINERY TRUST SERIES LTD

Start Date	1/25/82		
End Date	1/25/82	0.00	0.00
Est Income	10.17	0.7971	0.81
Est Income	10.17	1.00	0.40
Est Growth	70.00	0.7170	0.00
Company Size	35.47	0.258	0.27

Source: FT Information

* Data updated as last component Annual Report

1 = dividend 1 = income yield 1 = total return

Periodic Change detected from capital @ Est Change

INVESTORS

Equities follow gilts lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

BANKS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

BUILDING MATERIALS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

CHEMICALS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

DISTRIBUTORS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

ELECTRICITY

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

ENGINEERING

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

HEALTHCARE

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

INSURANCE

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

LEISURE & HOTELS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

MEDIA

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

MINING

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

OIL & GAS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

OTHER FINANCIAL

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

PRINTING & PAPER

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

PROPERTY

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

RETAILERS, FOOD

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

TEXTILES & APPAREL

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

TRANSPORT

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

WATER

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

BRITISH FUNDS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

INDEX-Linked on projected inflation of

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

LONGS (over 15 years)

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

UNDATED

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

RETAILERS, FOOD

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

TEXTILES & APPAREL

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

TRANSPORT

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

WATER

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

RETAILERS, FOOD

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

TEXTILES & APPAREL

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

TRANSPORT

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

WATER

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1996	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

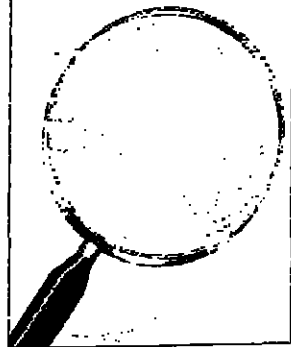
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RETAILERS, FOOD

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PINKERTON'S EYE



A monthly column from the security and detection agency

LOW RISK

TRAVELLERS are cautioned to maintain a low profile in the Gambia during the election period until mid-January. Police in Thailand have given a warning that gangsters in Pattaya are robbing and killing tourists after they have been drugged by prostitutes.

MODERATE RISK

Political violence is reported in Accra, Ghana, as the December 7 elections approach. In Mexico the Revolutionary Army of Popular Insurgency has begun operations.

HIGH RISK

Last month five members of a family were killed in São Paulo in Brazil. This takes the number of murders this year in the city to 162. A curfew has been imposed on Bangkok, the capital of the Central African Republic, because of the army mutiny. In Colombia it is estimated there are an average of three kidnappings a day in a rapidly rising crime rate. Fighting in northeast Zaire continues as Tutsi rebels expand their front by routing Zairean troops. The defeated army has been raping and looting as it retreats.

EXTREME RISK

Air routes overflying Afghanistan should be avoided after reports that the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban is using Stinger surface to air missiles. Violence in Algeria is expected to intensify after voters ratified a new constitution on November 28 prohibiting political parties based on religion and ethnicity. Travellers are advised to avoid Angola because of violent crime and possible political-military instability. Daylight robberies have been reported in the capital Luanda and foreign nationals are subject to arbitrary detention.

● Pinkerton 0181-424 8884

UK basks in late autumn sun

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

ONE OF the sunniest Novembers ever recorded has given a countrywide autumn boost to Britain's already booming tourism industry. Official figures show that despite the recent run of cold, damp and windy days, there has rarely been so much sun in November. From Scotland to Cornwall, hoteliers, holiday cottage owners and tourism attractions benefited as thousands of families rushed to take advantage of the perfect weather for walks in the country or along deserted beaches.

The West Country Tourist Board, for example, says that the number of people making inquiries and booking short-break holidays leapt by 23 per cent compared with last November. A tourist board spokesman said: "Hotels throughout the region had a busy month. The good weather obviously helped to convince people that they should spend time out and about."

The National Trust said that bookings for its 230 holiday cottages in England, Wales and Northern Ireland were up by 10 per cent. Country Holidays, the UK's biggest holiday cottage company, with more than 4,000 properties, said that lettings were 11 per cent up on last year.

The cause of the rush to the countryside appears to have been the surprising amount of sunshine between the autumn showers. The absence of penetrating frosts and, until recently, strong winds also meant that trees retained their leaves and kept their autumn colours for longer than usual.

The trust added: "There has been an increasing demand



Country hotels across Britain report thousands of extra bookings as families take advantage of perfect weather conditions for walking trips

for short breaks; it seems people have discovered that there is something to do in Britain, even in November."

Even the Meteorological Office in London was surprised by the statistics. A forecaster said: "There was well above the average amount of sunshine right across the country from Scotland to the South East. Temperatures were close to the average for the time of

year and, though it was wet, the rain tended to fall at night, so there was more sun during the day."

In the South East the Met Office reported that sunshine for November was 50 per cent above average and rainfall was 60 per cent above average.

The Ramblers' Association said: "It was perfect weather for walking. In the summer

our 400 groups do more evening walks, but we were just as many during the day in the autumn and winter. This year, with light crisp frosts and sunshine between the showers, was ideal for getting out into the country."

Now the association has organised the Festival of Winter Walks throughout Britain from Boxing Day to New Year's Day in the hope that the

good weather will continue. Country Holidays said that the Lake District, the Cotswolds and the Peak District were particularly popular in November, with holidaymakers eagerly booking cottages with open fires from £60 for a three-day break.

The National Trust said that the demand for short breaks had proved particularly strong during November. A

National Trust spokesman commented: "We had a huge increase in the number of people ringing on a Thursday when they saw the weather forecast and asking what was still available for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday."

The Met Office predicts that this coming weekend will also prove ideal for short breaks in the British countryside.

Greek bars peg drink prices

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

MORE than 100 hotels and bars of Halkidiki — a peninsula on the Greek mainland, which is visited by about 80,000 British tourists each year — have agreed to offer fixed prices for drinks and snacks throughout next summer in an attempt to attract cost-conscious tourists.

Many prices now routinely charged in hotel bars in the area will be cut by up to 40 per cent in the move which follows "growing concern throughout the country over the 24 per cent slump in

visitors this year compared with last year."

Halkidiki has not suffered as badly as the rest of the country — this year there were only 5 per cent fewer tourists. Already bookings for next year show a marked improvement on last summer but members of the Halkidiki Hotel Association have agreed to offer stable prices on a range of popular products so that tourists can budget in advance.

A glass of local wine, a litre of mineral water or a cup of

Greek coffee will all cost 300 drachmas or about 65p. Local brandy will be priced at 450 drachmas (£1.15) a glass, a portion of *horiatiki* or Greek salad will cost 650 drachmas (£1.65) and *moussaka* 850 drachmas (£2.15).

Halkidiki is in the northern area known as Macedonia. It has 500 kilometres of coastline and is used by 19 British tour operators with flights from ten airports. Next year Salonika, where "charter flights land, is designated the European City of Culture.

Adventure holiday centres win new safety licences

By TONY DAW

THE first licences for outdoor activity centres, under a new law introduced to reassure parents that their children will be safe on adventure holidays, will be announced next month. Inspectors from the newly formed Adventure Activities Licensing Authority have visited scores of centres and have approved safety standards at 50, ranging from large ones run by local councils to a mountaineering holiday run by one man.

The safety measures come after the Dorset canoeing tragedy in 1993, in which four teenagers from a school party died in Lyme Bay during a trip organised by a private activity centre. The new law requires commercial centres that provide caving, climbing, trekking and watersports activities for youngsters under 18 to hold a licence.

About 1,000 centres are thought to fall within the scope of the law. Most have applied for a licence and are undergoing inspection.

John Walsh-Heron, the chief executive of the licensing authority, says: "The safety standards in practice in the organisations we have already inspected are on the whole

quite good, but we shall be turning down some centres and advising the people who run them on the improvements they need to make."

Mr Walsh-Heron has been impressed by the number of voluntary organisations, including the Youth Hostels Association and Scouting groups, which have asked to be licensed although they are not covered by the law.

He believes that a voluntary scheme should be introduced to run in conjunction with the statutory system. "If organisations want to prove they are

taking safety seriously," he adds, "they should be acknowledged."

The authority, which is administered by Tourism Quality Services, a Cardiff-based leisure company, is concerned, however, that some centres have decided to opt out of the legislation.

Mr Walsh-Heron says: "It is quite easy to opt out if you canoe on a small stream of calm water or pony-trek on open land close to a main road. This is an important issue, which must be addressed."



The new rules cover watersports, caving and climbing

Hamlet's tomb foils airport expansion

By HARVEY ELLIOTT AND GLEN GENTIN

PLANS to extend the terminal at one of Europe's fastest-growing airports have been halted by the remains of the nobleman on whom Shakespeare is believed to have based Hamlet.

According to legend, one of six protected burial mounds alongside the terminal buildings at Billund in Jutland contains the bones of Amleth, a Danish King who lived many years before Christ yet whose exploits were so remarkable they reached the ears of Shakespeare.

The Danish historian Saxo, who lived between 1190 and 1210, recorded the story of Prince Amleth, who was at the centre of an extraordinary royal intrigue that resulted in his being sent to England on a false mission which was supposed to have resulted in his death. But he survived, and after many adventures he married the English King's daughter, before returning to Denmark to defeat the conspirators and become King.

The only Danish town then known to the outside world was Helsingør, which provided the name for the castle in *Hamlet*. After his death, King Amleth was buried with five of his courtiers near Billund.

The site, now a protected Danish monument, was discovered by labourers in 1896, who uncovered a splendid gold bracelet believed to have been worn by Amleth.

Billund has a population of only 8,000 but its airport became one of the most important in northern Europe after Maersk, the Danish private airline, developed it as a "hub", providing an interchange for flights throughout the region and a growing number of services to Britain. Tens of thousands of children also use the airport on their way to the nearby Legoland theme park.

Once the airport had outgrown its capacity of two million passengers a year, the authority wanted to build a new terminal adjoining the existing one. That would have encroached on the tombs, however, so the authority has been ordered to build the 250,000 sq metre terminal on the opposite side of the runway at a cost of £75 million.

Maersk says that it needs the new terminal to expand its charter services still further, but has decided it must not even attempt to disturb the legend of Amleth, preferring instead to name its recently improved business-class lounge at the airport the "King Amleth".

Bermuda cashes in on low fares

BERMUDA is cashing in on falling air fares by becoming one of the fastest-growing short-break destinations in the world.

Three-day breaks now cost from £460, including seven-hour flight and self-catering accommodation, or from £499 for three nights in a top hotel. But anybody with relatives or friends on the Atlantic island will be charged £249 for a return flight with British Airways between January 10 and February 28. The week-day flights depart on Tuesdays and Thursdays and must be booked by December 18.

The Bermuda Festival is taking place on the island at the same time and includes performances by the pianist David Owen Norris, the Vienna Boys' Choir and the English Chamber Orchestra.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

NINE HAMPERS OF PORT TO BE WON

Continuing our Twelve Days of Christmas competition, *The Times* is offering you the chance to win not nine drummers drumming but nine exclusive hampers of Cockburn's Special Reserve Port. Each hamper contains 12 bottles of the delicious drink and is worth around £200. Special Reserve is a mature port, made from a superior blend of quality grapes grown in the Douro valley vineyards in Portugal.



HOW TO ENTER

Call 0891 300 361 with your answer to the question: Who wrote the following?

And is it true? And is it true.
This most tremendous tale of all
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The maker of the stars and sea
Become a child on earth for me?

a) William Wordsworth

b) Sir John Berjeman

c) William Blake

Matured in oak casks for four to five years before being bottled, it has a deep ruby colour and is guaranteed to bring warmth and feeling to any occasion.

whether enjoyed intimately with a partner, noisily with friends or privately in a moment of indulgence.

Cockburn's, purveyors of the finest quality port since 1815, is the only port company to make all its own wines and Special Reserve is part of its wide-ranging portfolio which includes vintage, tawny, white and LBV (late bottled vintage).

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Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. Normal Times Newspapers Ltd competition rules apply. Calls cost (per minute) 45p cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

CHANGING TIMES

Serious talk about tourism

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AIRWAYS

CHRISTMAS SEAT SALE FOR FLORIDA

AMERICA

Refusal of video certificate within UK margin of appreciation

Wingrove v United Kingdom
(Case 1919/93)

Before R. Bernhardt, President and Judges Thór Vilhjálmsson, L. E. Pettit, J. De Meyer, J. M. Morillon, Sir John F. O'Hara, G. M. S. O'Hara, D. G. O'Hara, and U. Lohmeyer.

Registrar P. J. Mahoney

Judgment November 25

The refusal by the British Board of Film Classification to grant a certificate for Mr Nigel Wingrove's video work *Visions of Ecstasy*, in conjunction with the statutory provisions making it a criminal offence to distribute a video work without such certificate, was justified as being necessary in a democratic society within the meaning of article 10.2 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The European Court of Human Rights held by seven votes to two that there had been no violation of the applicant's freedom of expression.

Article 10 provides:

"1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises."

"2. The exercise of these free-

doms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary."

Mr Wingrove wrote the script for and directed the making of an 18-minute video film entitled *Visions of Ecstasy* which concerned the life and writings of St Teresa of Avila, a sixteenth-century Carmelite nun who experienced powerful ecstatic visions of Jesus Christ.

He submitted the video to the British Board of Film Classification in order to obtain a certificate that would permit it to be sold, hired out or otherwise supplied to the public. On September 18, 1989 the board rejected the application on the ground, inter alia, that the work would give rise to outrage at the unacceptable treatment of a sacred subject and that, accordingly, a reasonable jury properly directed would find that it infringed the criminal law of blasphemy.

The applicant appealed to the Video Appeals Committee. In its

written submissions, the board described the video film as depicting the erotic fantasies of a character referred to as St Teresa, involving both the crucified figure of Christ and the "Psychic of St Teresa", a female role. The applicant disputed the board's assertion that his video film was solely erotic in content.

The appeal was heard by a panel of five members on December 6 and 7, 1989. By a majority of three votes to two, the panel upheld the board's decision.

The majority considered the overall tone and spirit of the video to be indecent and had little doubt that its presentation would cause outrage to the feelings of Christians, who would reasonably look upon it as being contemptuous of the divinity of Christ. The minority, while accepting that many people would find the video extremely distasteful, considered it unlikely that a reasonable and properly directed jury would convict.

The applicant received legal advice to the effect that his case was not suitable for judicial review.

The application to the European Commission of Human Rights, which was lodged on June 18, 1990, was declared admissible on March 8, 1994. Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on January 10, 1995, in which it established the facts and said, by 14 votes to 2, that there had been a violation of article 10.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held:

"The applicant complained of a violation of his right to freedom of expression under article 10.2 of the Convention."

It was undisputed that the refusal by the British Board of Film Classification to grant a distribution certificate for *Visions of Ecstasy* constituted an interference with his right to freedom of expression.

To determine whether such an interference entailed a violation of the Convention, the Court had to examine whether it was justified under article 10.2 as a restriction "prescribed by law", which pursued an aim that was legitimate under the Convention and was "necessary in a democratic society".

A Whether the interference was prescribed by law

The board had acted within its powers under section 4(1) of the Video Recordings Act 1984.

The offence of blasphemy could not, by its very nature, lend itself to precise legal definition. National authorities had therefore to be afforded a degree of flexibility in assessing whether the facts of a particular case fell within that definition.

There was no general uncertainty or disagreement as to the definition of what constituted blasphemy. Having seen the video for itself, the Court was satisfied that the applicant could, with appro-

priate legal advice, reasonably have foreseen that certain scenes in the film could fall within the scope of the offence of blasphemy.

In those circumstances, it could not be said that blasphemy law did not afford adequate protection against arbitrary interference. The impugned restriction had therefore been "prescribed by law".

B Whether the interference pursued a legitimate aim

The aim of the interference, the protection of Christians against serious offence in their beliefs, was fully consonant with the aims of article 9 of the Convention on freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Whether or not there was a real need for protection against exposure to the video was a question that the Court would address when assessing the "necessity" of the interference.

Although the English law of blasphemy only protected the Christian faith, it was not for the European Court to rule in abstracto as to the compatibility of domestic law with the Convention; the extent to which English law protected other beliefs was not in issue in the present case.

The fact that the law of blasphemy did not treat all religions on an equal footing did not detract from the legitimacy of the aim pursued in the present context. The Court concluded that the refusal to grant a distribution certificate had a legitimate aim.

C Whether the interference was necessary in a democratic society

The interference had been intended to protect against seriously offensive attacks on matters regarded as sacred by Christians. Other laws mentioned by the applicant pursued related but distinct aims and were not relevant in the present context.

Blasphemy legislation was still in force in various European countries. Although its application had become increasingly rare, the fact remained that there was as yet no sufficient common ground in the legal and social orders of the member states of the Council of Europe to conclude that blasphemy legislation was, in itself, unnecessary in a democratic society and incompatible with the Convention.

Under article 10.2, whereas there existed little scope for restrictions on political speech or on questions of public interest, a wider margin of appreciation was generally available to the states in relation to matters falling in the sphere of personal convictions in the sphere of morals or religion.

As with morals, there was no uniform European conception of the requirements of protection against attacks on religious convictions. National authorities were better placed than the international judge to define these requirements and to rule on the "necessity" of a restriction.

That did not exclude final European supervision which was all the

more necessary given the breadth and open-endedness of the notion of blasphemy and the risks of arbitrary or excessive interferences it entailed.

In that regard, the scope of the offence and the safeguards inherent in blasphemy law were especially important. The fact that there had been prior restraint in the present case called for special scrutiny.

The Court had to determine whether the reasons given by the national authorities to justify the interference were relevant and sufficient under article 10.2.

Blasphemy law did not prohibit the expression of views hostile to the Christian religion or of any opinion offensive to Christians. What the law sought to control was the manner in which such views were expressed. The extent of insult to religious feelings had to be significant. The high degree of profanity required was a safeguard against arbitrariness.

Visions of Ecstasy portrayed the crucified Christ in an act of an overtly sexual nature. The national authorities had considered that the manner in which such imagery had been treated placed the focus less on the erotic feelings of the character than on those of the audience, which was the primary function of pornography.

They had further held that no attempt had been made to explore the meaning of that imagery beyond engaging the viewer in a voyeuristic erotic experience.

The public distribution of the video could therefore outrage and insult the feelings of believing Christians and constitute the offence of blasphemy.

The reasons given to justify the interference could be considered both relevant and sufficient and the interference could not be said to be arbitrary or excessive.

Since videos, once on the market, easily escaped control by the authorities, it was not unreasonable for them to consider that the video could have reached people to whom it would have caused offence.

The use of a box with a warning message would have had limited efficiency given the varied forms of transmission of video films. In any event, the national authorities were, here too, better placed than the European Court to make an assessment as to the video's likely impact on the public.

Although the interference amounted to a complete ban, that had to be seen in the context of the considerable consequences (i) of the authorities' opinion that its distribution would infringe the criminal law as well as (ii) of the applicant's refusal to amend it or cut out the blasphemous scenes.

The Court therefore found that the interference was justified under article 10.2 of the Convention.

Chancery Division

Misfeasance in improper disclosure

Elliott v Chief Constable of Wiltshire and Others

Before Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor

Judgment November 20

A person who had suffered damage when a policeman, holding himself out as a police officer, had disclosed that the confidential information concerning Mr Elliott's convictions had been derived from the Police National Computer. That information comprised personal data under section 1 of the Data Protection Act 1984 and was subject to the data protection principles in Schedule 1 to the Act.

Mr Elliott, a senior police officer, said that for the purpose of the present hearing he would treat the pleaded facts as true.

In 1988 Mr Elliott was employed as a reporter/subeditor for the *Wiltshire Gazette* and was investigating alleged misconduct on the part of a senior police officer in the Wiltshire Constabulary for the purpose of writing an article.

In October 1989 a senior police officer, it was not known whether it was the same one, told the news editor that Mr Elliott was a criminal with a long string of convictions, some serious. He supplied a list of those which included convictions for armed robbery and rape and stated that if there were a robbery or rape in the area the police would pull in Mr Elliott for questioning.

The news editor naturally informed the editor who summoned Mr Elliott to an interview and presented him with the list of convictions. On November 19, 1989 Mr Elliott was dismissed. The clear inference was that the dismissal was because of the criminal offences.

Some of the listed convictions were true. Some were not. In

particular the alleged convictions for rape and armed robbery were untrue. Other of the listed convictions were true but related to spent convictions under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

It was alleged in the statement of claim and not disputed before his Lordship that the confidential information concerning Mr Elliott's convictions had been derived from the Police National Computer. That information comprised personal data under section 1 of the Data Protection Act 1984 and was subject to the data protection principles in Schedule 1 to the Act.

Personal data might be disclosed by police officers for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime or apprehending or prosecuting offenders. Section 5, 2(3) and 2(8)(i). However, disclosure for an improper purpose was a criminal offence under section 5 and *R v Brown* [1994] AC 547.

The statement of claim pleaded that the chief constable's police officers owed a duty of confidence to Mr Elliott in relation to the disclosure of his criminal convictions; that information collated by police officers in relation to criminal convictions could only lawfully be disclosed by them for the purpose of preventing their public functions as police officers and in particular for their reasonable use for the purpose of detecting or investigating crime, the investigation and prosecution of alleged offences and the apprehension of suspects or persons unlawfully at large.

It pleaded that the disclosures were made in breach of the obligation of confidentiality owed by the chief constable's police officers and for a private purpose, namely to damage him in his capacity as a senior police officer, to prevent publication of the article concerning maladministration and corruption.

It also alleged that the disclosure by the news editor to the editor of the convictions was in breach of confidence and that the editor acted in breach of confidence by publishing a letter dismissing Mr Elliott because of his criminal record.

The allegation of breach of confidence was the only cause of action.

against the news editor and editor and Master Dyson struck it out as disclosing no cause of action. His Lordship agreed with the master.

The convictions had been announced in open court. They were therefore in the public domain and could not be confidential information. The notion that information about convictions announced in public in open court was confidential was absurd.

It seemed that the idea that the information was confidential had arisen because anyone other than a policeman would have difficulty collecting it. But a diligent researcher could have discovered it. Information that was not confidential did not become so just because it was disclosed by a policeman.

It followed that the breach of confidence claim against all three defendants was misconceived and the news editor and the editor were entitled to be dismissed from the action.

Mr Elliott's second claim was that by disclosing his convictions the senior police officer was guilty of misfeasance in his public office as a police constable which gave rise to a remedy in damages.

His Lordship reviewed the authorities on that tort which was well established but of which the boundaries had not yet been precisely defined: *Dunlop v Waltham Municipal Council* [1992] AC 138; *Calveley v Chief Constable of Merseyside* (1990) AC 1238; *Gray v Home Office* [1994] 2 AC 45; *North Territory v Mengel* [1995] 69 ALJR 527 and *Three Rivers DC v Governor of Bank of England* [1996] 3 All ER 558.

Mr Rubin argued that the tort of misfeasance in public office concerned the purported exercise of some power or authority. Misconduct while holding public office and unconnected with the improper use of an administrative power could not give rise to the tort. He said that the police officer, in maliciously providing information, whether true or false, to the newspaper about Mr Elliott could not be said to have been exercising a power or authority.

Mr Clayton contended that it was not necessary for a public official to be exercising a power. He pointed out that a public official might be guilty of misfeasance by pure omission, where

no exercise of power had occurred: see *R v Dytham* [1979] QB 722.

A policeman, out of hours and not on uniform, might commit an assault. That would not be an abuse of his powers as a police officer. But if a police officer in uniform effected an arrest without proper cause that would be an abuse of his office.

His Lordship held that on the facts of the present case there was the requisite connection. The senior policeman was in possession of the information about the convictions because he was a police officer. He came into possession of the information from the National Police Computer and because of his position as a police officer. He gave the information to the news editor in his capacity as a police officer.

Police officers had a status that was the source of important powers and duties. A policeman guilty of misconduct and the other ingredients of the tort were present. The tort of misfeasance in public office would be made out.

His Lordship considered that all the requisite ingredients: malice, intent to injure, improper purpose and damage, in the form of loss of employment, had been pleaded. If all were proved at trial it would be a lamentable commentary on English law if that conduct were not tortious.

Accordingly, he was not prepared to strike out Mr Elliott's claim against the chief constable that he was vicariously liable for his officers for the tort of misfeasance in public office.

He would also allow the amendment sought by Mr Elliott alleging malicious falsehood. It was a statute barred since it was a cause of action arising out of the same facts as already pleaded within the six-year period: see section 35(4) of the Limitation Act 1980.

Accordingly, he would dismiss Mr Elliott's appeal against the finding of the master that there was no cause of action for breach of confidence; dismiss the chief constable's application to strike out the claim for misfeasance in public office as disclosing no cause of action; and allow Mr Elliott's proposed amendment in relation to the claim for malicious falsehood.

Solicitors: Birnberg & Co; Mr Michael O. Holder, Trowbridge.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said: *Chancery Practice Direction (9) Companies Court: Schemes and reductions* would in future be heard by a judge.

The Chancery judges considered that that change of practice was desirable. Among the considerations which they had taken into account was the fact that schemes often bound numerous persons who were not before the court.

Arrangements had been made so that in term time petitions to sanction schemes would be listed on Mondays.

Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, so stated in *Practice Direction No 2* of 1996 issued on November 27 in the Chancery Division.

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Law Report December 5 1996

Fears of transfer insufficient ground

Sita (GB) Ltd v Burton and Others

Before Lord Johnston, Mr J. R. C. Crosby and Mr D. J. Jenkins

Judgment November 19

An employee's fears in regard to his conditions and terms of service on an impending transfer of an industrial tribunal dated December 15, 1995, that the applicant employees, Mr P. A. Burton and Mr K. M. Picard, had been reasonable in their belief that their terms and conditions might be substantially changed after the

Petitions to be heard by judge

Practice Direction (Companies Court: Schemes and reductions)

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PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1996-97

GIROBANK plc (TRANSFER)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament in the present Session by Girobank plc for an Act under the above name or short title for the purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

To provide for the vesting in Alliance and Leicester plc ("ALL") of the head office of Girobank plc at 49 Park Lane, London; at the Alliance and Leicester Building Society, Scottish Administration Centre, Broughton Street, Edinburgh; at the Alliance and Leicester Building Society, Regional Office, 63 Royal Avenue, Belfast; and at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

On and after 4th December 1996 a copy of the Bill for the intended Act may be inspected and copies obtained at the price of £1 each at the head office of Girobank plc at 49 Park Lane, London; at the Alliance and Leicester Building Society, Scottish Administration Centre, Broughton Street, Edinburgh; at the Alliance and Leicester Building Society, Regional Office, 63 Royal Avenue, Belfast; and at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it, if the Bill originates in the House of Commons the latest date for depositing such a Petition in the Private Bill Office of that House will be 30th January 1997; if it originates in the House of Lords the latest date for depositing such a Petition in the Office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, the Office of the Clerk of the House of Lords, or the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated 28th November 1996

JULIAN HEPPLEWHITE, Girobank plc, 49 Park Lane, London W1Y 4EQ, Company Secretary.

SHERWOOD & CO., 35 Great Peter Street, Westminster, London W1P 3LR, Parliamentary Agents.

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■ FILM 1

The Thanksgiving Day from hell is dissected in Jodie Foster's hectic *Home for the Holidays*



■ FILM 2

... while in *Jingle all the Way* Arnold Schwarzenegger crashes into the Christmas season.

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ FILM 3

From Spain, *The Day of the Beast* is a surreal black comedy about devil worship



■ FILM 4

... and Ireland in the late Seventies provides the setting for the genial *Last of the High Kings*

CINEMA: Geoff Brown finds some wheat in the chaff that is *Home for the Holidays*, but gives up on Schwarzenegger

The family as a nuclear device

From constantly smokes and talks. Dad grabs her while she cooks and whisks her round to the strains of *It's Not Unusual*. Aunt Gladys is going batty. Sister Cynthia is a sour-faced prune. Your gay brother arrives, acts the pest and splatters the entire company carving the turkey. You yourself have a terrible cold and have just been fired from your art museum job. Happy holidays.

This is the scene in *Home for the Holidays*. Jodie Foster's second film as director. The holiday is Thanksgiving, which America celebrated last Thursday. In real life, if we were like Holly Hunter's heroine and forced inside such a dysfunctional household, we might well want to rush away screaming. At times some may feel the need to escape Foster's film too.

Perceptive moments are followed by rowdy excess. Anne Bancroft's mother of them all leans too much towards caricature, while Robert Downey Jr's gay prankster is annoying beyond the demands of the part. Then Geraldine Chaplin's batty aunt lets rip with a fart or an obscenity, and Charles Durning's father trains a lawn hose on two brawling brothers. It all gets to be too much.

In a film with so much hectic talk — the screenwriter is W.D. Richter, eccentric creator of the cult film *Buckaroo Banzai* — maybe it is not surprising that some of the best moments lie in quiet, visual observations. At Baltimore's airport, every phone booth is occupied by a sibling girding the loins for family trauma. Locked in a traffic jam with her family, Hunter's lonely single mother exchanges a beautiful, long-suffering glance with a total stranger, locked in the jam with his own tormentors.

Foster judges such little scenes well, although she fails to generate forward momentum to carry us over the bumps and grinds of an increasingly convoluted plot. In this respect, *Little Man Tate*, her first directorial fling, was a more plausible piece of work, although *Holidays* can boast greater commercial appeal.

The cast alone ensures attention. Bancroft may chew the carpet, but she is undeniably funny as well, summoning the brood for dinner with the cheery cry: "Come, people are starving in the former Yugoslavia!" Downey is less rewarding, although at least the movie never pushes his gay character to the margins; Richter and Foster take a liberal view of family values.

Most other players have their moments, script permitting. But, as with most family celebrations, *Home for the Holidays* is best appreciated in small doses.

With *Jingle all the Way* we

move on to the next holiday down the line, Christmas. Don't confuse this with Christmas the religious festival; the movie must be Hollywood's biggest advertisement yet for seasonal consumer greed.

The plot rotates around Arnold Schwarzenegger's frantic attempts to buy the country's number one action toy, Turbo Man, for the son he neglects the other 364 days of the year. In the process he wrestles with a few conniving Santas, shatters a radio studio's glass door, and punches a reindeer in the face. He also demonstrates that his knack for comedy is definitely not improving with time.

Not that Arnie has been encouraged to finesse his skills by the director, Brian Levant. This, after all, is the man who

Home for the Holidays

Curzon West End
15, 102 mins
Hectic visit with a dysfunctional family

Jingle all the Way

Warner West End
PG, 88 mins
Schwarzenegger's Christmas cheer

The Day of the Beast

Metro, 18, 110 mins
Satanic anarchy from Spain

A Chinese Ghost Story

National Film Theatre
95 mins
Dishevelled Hong Kong fantasy

The Last of the High Kings

Warner West End
15, 104 mins
Pleasant yarn about coming of age

Feeling Minnesota

Virgin Tricadero
18, 98 mins
Unappealing low-life drama

directed *The Flintstones*. He believes in slap bang wallop, as does the producer, Chris Columbus, who let Macaulay Culkin run riot in *Home Alone*. In between Schwarzenegger's grimaces and flying merchandise, the twinkling lights and cosy snow of a clean, dream America, you find other people mugging their hearts out: the TV comic Sinbad as a manic rival for the Turbo Man toy; Phil Hartman as a sly, neighbour who gives the reindeer to his own kid. "You can't do too much to make Christmas magical," Hartman drones.

Jingle all the Way may be mildly magical for small boys



Robert Downey Jr., Charles Durning and Holly Hunter talk turkey over the Thanksgiving dinner in Jodie Foster's *Home for the Holidays*

who wouldn't mind Turbo Man themselves; for the rest of us, the film makes us wish Christmas had never been invented.

If the thought of Schwarzenegger jingling away makes your toes curl, relief may come from *The Day of the Beast*, an anarchic Spanish romp by Alex de la Iglesia, previously responsible for the grueling fantasy spoof *Accion Mutante*. Imagine a Buñuel anti-clerical gibe cross-bred with a gory midnight movie. In the opening minutes a falling church crucifix squashes a priest. The priest's younger colleague then sets off for Madrid to contact the Devil and try to avert the Anti-Christ's birth, due on Christmas Eve. First port of call: a heavy metal music shop.

By the end, de la Iglesia has roped into his comedy a fake TV Satanist, the Devil incarnate (a black, grinning ram), a giant neon advert for Schweppes, gory special effects, and much satire on Spanish society.

At first the fast pace is exhilarating, while Alex

Angulo's sober demeanour as the priest on a satanic mission does much to sharpen the humour. But the second half disintegrates, and the pleasing spectre of Buñuel fades under pressure from tedious set pieces and assorted narrative debris.

The images get no tidier in *Ching Siu-Tung's A Chinese Ghost Story*, a cultish but dishevelled Hong Kong production from 1987 that hurls together kung-fu high-jinks, gruesome comic horror and a traditional ghost story with no thought to intelligibility or tension.

The bulk of the frenzy centres on a haunted temple, where a maladroit debt collector (Leslie Cheung, popular throughout the world after *Farewell My Concubine*) succumbs to a lady ghost's charms. But all characters are full-guys for the special effects team. Bodies fly through the air, corpses groan and crawl, while a monstrously huge, hairy tongue lashes through trees and makes a swiss roll of

the hero. You need stamina, and possibly a warped mind, to survive this.

The Last of the High Kings is a far more humane endeavour. This is a period coming-of-age story set in Ireland: goodness, did I hear you yawn? But David Keating, a new director, and his motley cast attack the material with enough vim and vigour to blow off most cobwebs.

Alongside a willingness to enjoy teenage pranks and puppy love, a taste for a little whimsy helps: for parents the 17-year-old hero boasts a fiercely nationalistic mother (Catherine O'Hara), wrapped up either in Guinness or Celtic myths, and an actor father (Gabriel Byrne) lost in the Bard.

The cast has its international interlopers: O'Hara is Canadian, while Jared Leto, the beautiful hero, hails from Louisiana. But the dialect coach has done good work, while the script and soundtrack evoke with ease the summer of 1977, when Dublin rocked to the music of Thin Lizzy and Elvis Presley died.

For Leto's Frankie this is a painful time: he has six weeks to wait for exam results that he expects will be bad. "I've ruined my life before I've even started," he moans.

Still, there are girls to dream over, drinks to spike, a beach party to organise, and battles of independence to fight with his anti-Protestant mum. There is nothing here to raise the roof, but the film is always pleasant and attractive to watch.

You would appreciate these modest virtues more if you had to suffer *Feeling Minnesota*, a dingy drama about two warring brothers wrecking

each others' lives. You can tell that Steven Baigelman, the writer and director, wants to impress. He names one character Jjaks (Keanu Reeves, adorned with stubble and a pained expression, assumes that role). He gets another one to say: "Time is like an orange." He tries to dovetail nastiness and humour, like the god Tarantino, but lacks the master's cutting edge.

He also cannot get the best from his actors: one by one, from Reeves and Vincent D'Onofrio downwards, their talent fails as they shout, fight, and wave their arms. This is a most unappealing movie.

SNAP VERDICT

'Good comedy drama'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Susan Wallace, 19: Holly Hunter proves that her acting abilities are not confined to serious drama: she excels in this lighter role. Bill Staples, 21: A genuinely funny insight into a dysfunctional family. Every character resembles someone you wish you didn't know. Lisa Knight, 19: Charming original characters desperately try to relate to each other during the festive season. Rhian Dobell, 21: A really good comedy drama with interesting twists to the plot.

JINGLE ALL THE WAY

Susan: Children and adults alike will leave the film wishing they too had the fantastic powers of the Turbo Man suit. Bill: Immensely magnetic for a younger audience. Adults should see through the slapstick action to what is a critical appraisal of the commercialised Christmas. Lisa: Disappointing. There are some amusing moments but these could all have been condensed into about ten minutes and saved a lot of people a lot of pain. Rhian: As long as you're under 15, you'll enjoy the adventure.

THE LAST OF THE HIGH KINGS

Susan: A coming-of-age film which, despite involving itself with all the typical clichés of teenage angst, is humorous and evocative. Bill: A witty script is enhanced by a superb cameo by Steven Rea. Lisa: A poignant and magical drama. The beautiful setting and great cast make it thoroughly enjoyable. Rhian: Please don't be put off by the title — this film is witty and entertaining. And, to top it all, it has a brilliant soundtrack.

"Charming, tender and funny"

matt lauren timothy rosie martha natalie michael mira uma
dillon holly hutton o'donnell plimpton portman rapaport sorvino thurman



beautiful girls

good times never seemed so good

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS A FILM BY JAMES FENNER "BEAUTIFUL GIRLS" CASTING BY JAMES FENNER COSTUME DESIGNER JAMES FENNER EDITOR JAMES FENNER PRODUCTION DESIGNER JAMES FENNER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES FENNER PRODUCED BY JAMES FENNER WRITTEN BY JAMES FENNER DIRECTED BY JAMES FENNER

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Hip for the top

WITH a handful of singles and an audacious debut album all having grazed the lower reaches of the charts in recent months, Audioweb are hovering on the brink of that elusive breakthrough. Tomorrow, then, the world, but for now the Mancunian quartet are confined to an airless upstairs room somewhere in Camden's golden mile, crowded but not absolutely jammed to its 280 capacity.

Three tufty-haired tykes muscle their way on to the stage, light up cigarettes and stand around for a bit. They turn out to be guitarist Robin File, bass player Sean McCann and drummer Maxi. Soon they are joined by the altogether more imposing figure of singer Martin Merchant, better known as Sugar, a big black man dressed in cagoule and pudding-basin hip hop hat.

He starts singing the Clash's *Bankrobber*, unaccompanied. "My Daddy was a bank robber/He never hurt nobody/He just loved to live that way/And he loved to steal your money." The rest of the band comes tumbling in on the wrong beat and have to start again, which rather detracts from the impact. But as a jumping off point for Audioweb's mixture of dance-rock, sweet soul melody and reggaemuffin rap, it could hardly be bettered.

POP

Audioweb

The Monarch, NW1

There are several distinctive features about Audioweb's music, notably the way McCann's bass playing and Maxi's drumming operate on the cusp of rock and reggae, while File deploys an arsenal of pedalboard effects to create anything and everything except a straight guitar sound.

But their ace in the hole is Sugar's extraordinary vocal range. Time and again, on numbers such as *Sleeper* and *Faker*, he starts off in a high, silky tone and then drops into gruff, tongue-twisting rap mode. Between songs, his motormouth patter is brash and confident — "This one's like Phillips, years ahead" — if a little repetitive.

They end a brief set with *Drip Feed*, dedicated to their admirers the Stone Roses, and a rumbling *Who are They*. Ambling offstage, the four musicians ignore calls for an encore. It is not the last audience that this unusually gifted, if still unpolished, group will leave wanting more.

DAVID SINCLAIR

"A treat... will make you laugh out loud"
Jonathan Ross - News of the World
"An excellent Irish cast hurls itself into the action with gusto and fine comic timing"
Barry Norman - Film 95
"...Snappy dialogue and colourful characterisations"
Time Out - Geoff Andrew



The New Film by Stephen Frears

THE VAN

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NOW SHOWING AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



LOTTERY

Will recipients of big lottery awards be able to raise matching funds from private donors?



THEATRE

The Beauty Queen of Leenane, the fine debut play by Martin McDonagh, comes into the West End

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

In Manchester Sir Colin Davis steers the LSO through James MacMillan's new orchestral work



TOMORROW

Tales from the great survivor: Diana Ross talks about the new direction in her music

Buddy, can you spare a few million?

Time is running out for those arts bodies which must match their lottery handouts or lose them. Andy Lavender reports on a hair-raising financial timetable

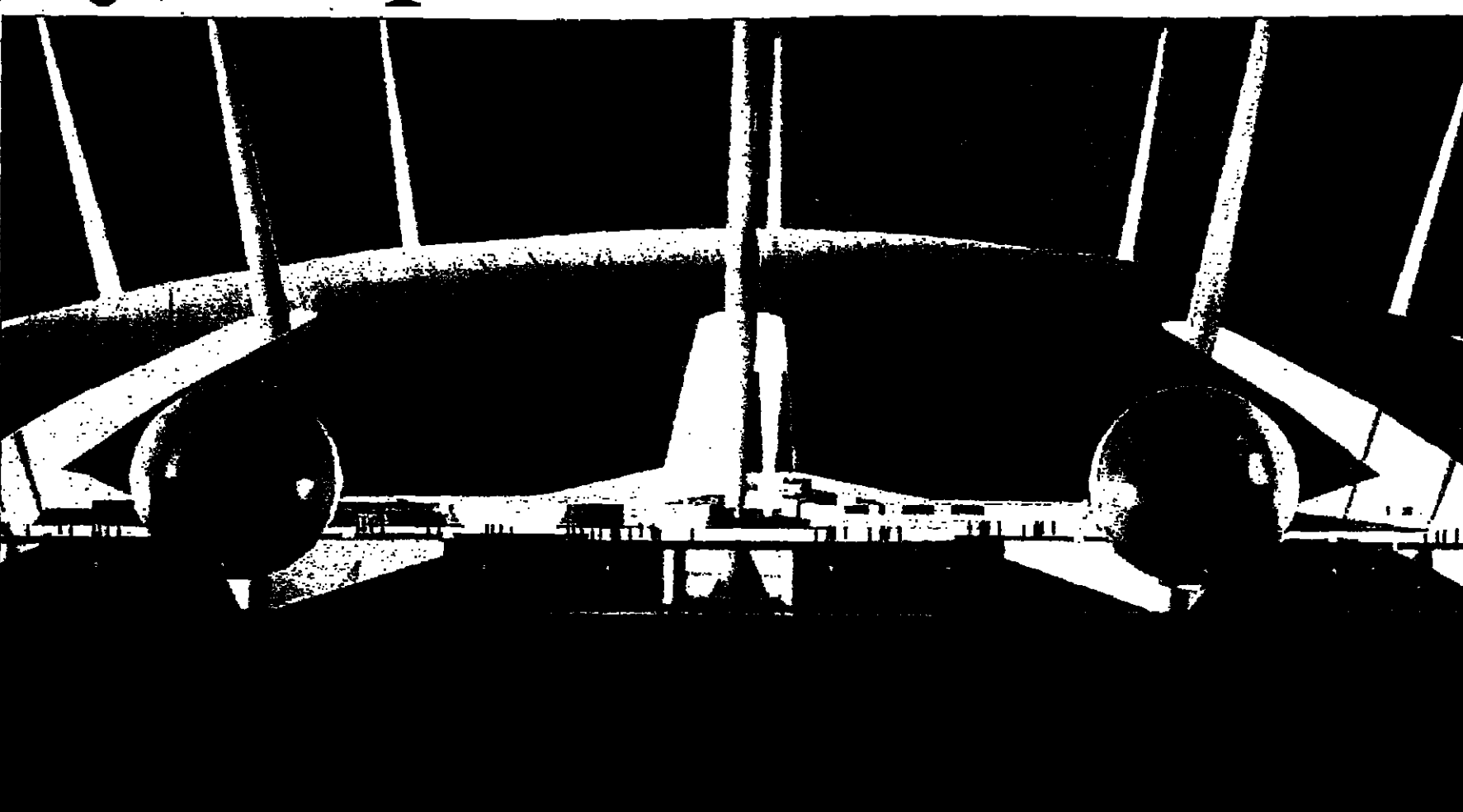
Christmas is a time for giving, and if you have a few million pounds to spare, this year your generosity will be more keenly sought than ever. You will probably be asked to bail out the nation's cultural *grands projets*, which need to raise millions very quickly if they are to go ahead.

This is a result of the requirements surrounding the award of National Lottery cash to the five "good causes". By law, each scheme must also raise an amount of "partnership funding" from local authorities, sponsorships, private donations and the like. In some cases the schedules are nail-bitingly precarious.

Next Wednesday the Millennium Exhibition Project reveals its business plan. The total cost for the jamboree at Greenwich is a projected £350 million (that's if you leave aside rumblings from the Labour Party and elsewhere that the actual costs could be at least double). A modest £150 million must be found from the private sector — by next spring. As Mike Elrick, the exhibition's head of public relations, admits: "Nothing's committed at the moment. We are working to a tight schedule and everybody is aware of the clock ticking."

A day later, the Royal Opera House will launch its appeal for support for the redevelopment of its Covent Garden site. It needs to raise nearly £79 million to match its funding from the National Lottery, although it hasn't exactly been quick off the mark — its lottery award was announced 17 months ago. Some donations are already in place (the ROH declines to reveal how much) but Keith Cooper, the director of corporate affairs, observes that "there is a critical path where certain things can't happen unless the money is there".

Consider, too, the Tate's development of a new Gallery of Modern



The clock is ticking for the proposed £350 million Greenwich Millennium Dome, for which £150 million must be found from the private sector — by next spring

Art on London's Banks. Already £62 million from the Millennium Commission and English Partnerships, the Government's regeneration agency, is in place. In the 30 months since the decision to develop the site was announced, the Tate has raised a further £23 million. In the next few months it needs to show that a further £45 million will be forthcoming.

Lottery money has provided much-needed funds for arts and cultural projects, but has turned us into a nation of beggars and pleaders. It has also produced the most hair-raising financial timetables. Projects will doubtless fall behind schedule, but deadlines simply cannot be missed. More bizarrely, the funding mechanisms might make it difficult to spend the money that is now available.

Awards made by the Millennium Commission must be matched by funding from elsewhere. "There has to be a question-mark over whether the commission will be able to spend all the money it's got," one insider suggests. "It has £1.6 billion banked up. If it applies the 50 per cent rule, £1.6 billion has to be found from other sources by the year 2000. I cannot believe there is that amount floating around."

The Arts Council is upbeat about the situation. "We've made commitments of just under £600 million," says Margaret Bolton, the organisation's lottery communications director, "contributing to projects whose total costs are £1.4 billion. So partnership funding is over 57 per cent of the total, way above our minimum requirements."

Not that the moneys are actually all in place. The Theatre Royal in Bath, for instance, needed to raise £340,000 towards refurbishment costs. Its reconstructed studio-space will open in January. The theatre is still painstakingly edging towards its funding target. At the other end of the country, the Brewery Arts

Centre in Kendal, Cumbria, achieved its partnership funding of nearly £780,000 relatively easily. The projected rebuilding work has been put on hold, however, since the private trust which has provided the centre's core funding to date is withdrawing its support. In this instance, nearly £2 million of lottery money is in limbo. As lottery largesse is mostly restricted to capital projects, here is a classic case of a potentially gleaming venue with no wherewithal to keep running.

One imagines, too, that the fundraisers are now besieging the same philanthropists and corporations. "We are all fishing in the same sea," says Dawn Anstwick, project director of the Tate's Bankside development. "But people who want to give money to a modern gallery are different from those who'd want to give to the Royal Opera House or Sadler's Wells. We're pretty confident we're going to get there or thereabouts."

The fundraising strategy for the Bankside project has followed a classic path: targeting wealthy individuals and trusts before turning to companies and corporations. Commercial organisations are generally unwilling to contribute towards capital costs — the

expenditure on bricks and mortar — and are more likely to sponsor an actual exhibition or event.

Chris Lever, director of communications at Sainsbury's, an established arts sponsor, admits that there is a keenly commercial aspect. "We wouldn't commit unless we were confident that we were joining a very successful and exciting enterprise that is going to strike a chord with a lot of people," he says. You can't argue with that. The trouble is that under the current legislation the private sector has a crucial role in cultural funding without any real obligation to fulfil it.

How might this extraordinary system be improved? In a pre-election period (or in any other, for that matter), you will only utter the phrase "corporation tax for culture" if you want to appear eccentric. But there are other ways of smoothing the fundraising process. For each of the next five years, for instance, the Cameron Mackintosh Foundation will supply £100,000 as partnership funding for selected applications to the new Arts 4 Everyone scheme — a modest but imaginative move which others might emulate.

And there are frequent calls for the regulations governing the

award of lottery cash to be applied more flexibly, so that certain projects might proceed with less partnership funding or perhaps none at all. There would be problems of selection, but a more measured strategy for the nation's cultural development would result.

A spokesman at the Department of National Heritage observes that, since most organisations raise their money without difficulty, there are no plans to make any changes to the requirements. Meanwhile, the fundraisers go on whistling for cash, hoping that the yawning gaps in their budgets will be filled before Easter. Watch those spaces.



Anna Manahan as Mag and Jane Brennan as Maureen

IMAGINE a blend of gigantic spider and Mr Toad dressed as a washerwoman, and you have the look of Anna Manahan's Mag, bunched and brooding in her awful green-grey parlour. But it is her wheedling, whining, selfish, callous treatment of the middle-aged daughter who resentfully tends her that leaves you feeling truly phobic. The poisonous symbiosis of parent and child has been an Irish theme since Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*; but seldom if ever have I seen the venom fizzing about the stage to better dramatic effect than in Martin McDonagh's debut play.

McDonagh deserves his recent award for the most promising dramatist of 1996 and his play merits its move from the Theatre Upstairs to the Royal Court's place-of-exile in WC2. The piece combines human

Bubbling Irish black comedy

The Beauty Queen of Leenane Duke of York's

shrewdness, a command of black comedy and a knack for sustaining tension to an extent astonishing in a writer in his mid-twenties. You itch to know whether Lloyd Hutchinson's affable Pato will lure Jane Brennan's Maureen from spinster isolation in the dour Irish outback. You may also catch yourself wondering if 20 years with her mother haven't turned her into a

woman worth avoiding. Feeding the old girl on a diet of lumpy Complan, plus biscuits as foul as the ones Beckett's Hamm shoves into the dustbins where he keeps his mother and father, is the least of Maureen's sins against the Fifth Commandment. You may well think that Mag's habit of dumping her urine into the kitchen sink deserves some such retaliation. But parental destructiveness goes on to breed filial violence.

Through I am not (I hope) in the business of revealing climaxes or denouements, I cannot resist pointing out that McDonagh has mastered the elementary dramatic skills and is unlikely to drop mentions of boiling fat or pokers

into the conversation early on without exploiting them later. Brennan's Maureen variously exudes frustration, anger, sexual yearning and, in her final moments, a glazed stupor worryingly reminiscent of the mother she has spent the evening mocking and hating. An objection to the play might be that Mag is less fully

explored. But if you learn nothing about her parents or her dead husband, Garry Hynes's production leaves you with a strong sense of the soul-destroying world outside. A village so dour that kicking a cow can result in a 20-year grudge is, after all, likely to breed monsters. Nor is that all. Let the last

word go to Pato, who labours in England: "When it's there I am, it's here I wish I was; but when it's here I am, it isn't there I want to be, but I know it isn't here I want to be either." If McDonagh's play is about the difficulty of escaping a bad mother, it is also about escaping Mother Ireland. Given the precision, yet size of his horizons, can you doubt he is a talent to watch?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

CONCERTS: A religious work for the LSO; a trio of sisters; and carols in 18th-century style

Lament on the cross Musical mismatch of temperament

NOT everyone who hears *The World's Ransoming* on the latest Shell-LSO National Tour will share the faith that inspired the work. Few, on the other hand, will fail to respond to the passion in James MacMillan's Maundy Thursday meditation, and fewer still will fail at least to recognise it.

The first in a series of three pieces commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra and relating, as the composer puts it, "to the events and liturgies of the Easter triduum", it drives its final message home with a percussive gesture as brutal as knocking large nails into a very solid piece of wood.

In musical terms, *The World's Ransoming* is a lament for cor anglais and orchestra based on plainsong melodies and a Bach chorale. The solo part — written specifically for the LSO's principal cor anglais, Christine Perdrill, who played in the first performance in July and who is inseparable from the present tour — is most expressively and beautifully written in a manner recalling, inevitably perhaps, the song of the swan on the waters of Tuonela. But that is confined largely to the outer sections. The middle section, though curiously lacking in a progressive impulse, is highly coloured and powerfully dramatic

in a manner now recalling the religious paroxysms of Olivier Messiaen. It is no less characteristic of James MacMillan for that, and no less convincingly fervent.

The box-office compensation, which certainly proved useful in Manchester, was Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Whether or not Sir Colin Davis has anything specific to say about that work, his approach seems to be to allow it to generate its own tensions rather than to impose preconceptions on it. If so, it worked most effectively from the oboe solo onwards in the first

movement, and in some of the more inward and eerie passages in the middle movements, but scarcely at all in the finale.

It was in the finale too that, in the Bridgewater Hall at least, Steven Isserlis's account of Schumann's Cello Concerto fell short of making the full-scale impact. The sound was just too slender at some crucial points in the construction. But compared with the exquisitely realised poetic aspects of the interpretation, the lack of weight mattered little.

THE Bekova Sisters, a piano trio from Kazakhstan, are to be congratulated on donating one of their rare South Bank performances for a concert in aid of the North London Hospice, which provides care free of charge to terminally ill patients.

Little is heard of the sisters in London these days. Since the initial interest in their exotic escape from Soviet Kazakhstan nearly ten years ago, their playing alone has not succeeded in gripping the

imagination in equal measure. There is too little incentive to go out of one's way to listen to playing which can be so volatile and unsearching as that which the Queen Elizabeth Hall heard on Monday.

To choose such a popular programme as Haydn's *Gypsy Rondo* Trio, Brahms's Op 114 Trio and Tchaikovsky's A minor Trio is to invite both conscious and subconscious comparison in any musically-literate audience. The Bekovas' Haydn is shaped by generalised, old-style gentility which totally ignores the insights into details of balance, phrasing and articulation revealed by some two decades of period performance. It seldom rises above the anodyne.

Both here and in the Brahms there was also an uneasy mismatch of musical temperament. Blood ties are no guarantee of successful musical chemistry, and the ardent cello of Alisa Bekova, the refined, circumspect violin of Elvira, and the shallow-toned and pedestrian pianism of Eleonora sit awkwardly together.

TESS KNIGHTON

HILARY FINCH

Early carols for Christmas

AUDIENCE participation at early music concerts is rapidly becoming the latest manifestation of "authenticity", whether in the singing of chorales or, as on this occasion, gallery carols. At least some members of the audience at St John's Smith Square, had been learning about this parochial music at a mini-conference organised by Peter Holman, director of the Parley of Instruments. These initiatives joined in lustily with three 18th-century versions of *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*, earning a round of applause from the conductor.

Indeed, the occasion was an informal one, with Holman introducing the settings and the Parley of Instruments and Psalmody, a small choir, performing in an honest and slightly earnest manner that aptly reflected the style of the music. For much of the 18th century, the only carol widely accepted by the Anglican Church was *White Shepherds Watched* and, consequently, we were treated to a handful of settings of that text.

Amateur choirs, which were introduced to improve standards of singing in church, were often supported by what

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AVAILABLE NOW FROM ALL GOOD STOCKISTS

Jeanette Winterson examines the remarkable endurance of an occult tool whose images refuse to be simply explained away



A 17th-century Tarot deck's Fool

In Monmouth Street, London, an occult shop called Mysteries offers for sale more than one hundred different Tarot packs. Some of these packs are designs from Renaissance Italy. Others are 18th-century French. There is the famous 1910 British Rider deck, which for the first time illustrates the pip cards. There is the rather sinister Aleister Crowley dark magic version, and a multiplying number of New Age fantasy decks; these are often banal and badly drawn but they do indicate a continuing fascination with and market for the *Jeux de magie* of Cartomancie.

It was in France, enjoying in the 18th century its Age of Enlightenment, that the Italian trick-taking cards of *Tarocchi* began to be used for fortune-telling. Scrying and prediction were already popular, and occult theories of all kinds were as much talked about in fashionable circles as the radicalism of Rousseau and the advances of science. Then, as now, an overemphasis on rationalism and materialism, a world with man and not God as its likely centre, seems to have demanded a psychic compensation in a rush towards mysticism.

Of particular interest was the notion of ancient knowledge or intuition, which found a focus in Napoleonic Egyptomania (a phenomenon that was not dissimil-

lar to the later Victorian obsession with India). Therefore, when a certain Court de Gebelin declared the Tarot deck to be nothing less than the lost book of Thoth, its future as an occult tool was assured.

The conundrum lies in the 22 trump cards never present before or since in ordinary playing card decks. In effect, these are three sets of seven, numbers one to 21, with The Fool, *Il Matto*, unnumbered and acting as a wild card through the deck. In a modern playing deck, only the joker reminds us of another history to the game.

What is the true history of the Tarot? Much as this book tries to explain it, we don't know. No matter how closely anyone tracks its journeys and disguises down the centuries, and no matter how soundly we debunk Egyptian and Cabalistic connections, and whispers about gypsy lore and luxurious explanations from the East, we are left with two

A WICKED PACK OF CARDS

The Origins of the Occult Tarot

By Michael Dummett, Ronald Decker and Thierry Depaulis

Duckworth, £35

ISBN 0 7156 2713 0

difficult questions: What were the original meanings, esoteric and esoteric, of the 22 painted trumps? Why has the Tarot continued to exercise its imaginative hold on very different minds in different cultures since the Renaissance?

Our authors answer the first part of the first question simply. Symbols such as The Emperor, The Hanged Man, Death, Judgment, and so on had ordinary meanings to their early audiences which they no longer have to us. There is no reason to dispute that,

though the authors' ideas on what those meanings might have been are too glib.

When it comes to the possible secret meanings of the trumps, we find that the real purpose of this book is to demonstrate that none was ever intended, and that the subsequent occultism of the Tarot is a fraud, a delusion, a genuine mistake or just a hobby for the feeble-minded. Naturally enough then, the second question can only be answered negatively in so much as it is answered — or even asked at all.

I do not doubt, and it has been told elsewhere, just how much chicanery there has been around the Tarot. Many of its famous names have altered some of its symbols, rearranged the order of the trumps, and offered up startling visual interpretations of the original pictures. Much of what has been written about the Tarot since the 18th century is contradictory and waylaid with hocus-pocus.

Isn't that true of every religious or mystical impulse? If no one is bothering to reinvent the Christian faith any longer, that is probably a sign of its exhaustion. A spiritual idea that is still numinous, whatever we think of it, changes and develops: is now a heresy, is then a dogma, attracts new ideas, some banal, some profound. Above all, it survives.

I take Jung's view that whatever endures in the human psyche needs to be studied on its own terms and by its own rules, however unruly. It is no good trying to show us by laborious detail how silly we are to have kept Tarot alive as a psychic symbol. We have. Surely that is what matters?

There is plenty in this book about "mere intuition" and no feeling at all for why one might be able to use the Tarot intuitively. This is as odd as talking about meals one has never eaten: no amount of recipe reading or laboratory analysis of the ingredients can explain or explain away the final dish. If the style is dull it may be because the authors have never found the time to sit at table with a wicked pack of cards.

Jeanette Winterson's novel, *Gut Symmetries*, will be published next month by Granta.

Dealt a mystery by the magic hand of chance

Great footsteps followed

In 1936, W. H. Auden and Louis MacNeice visited Iceland, and collaborated on the wonderfully fluent and utterly delightful hodgepodge of prose, poetry and (strictly amateur) photography called *Letters from Iceland*, published the following year. It was actually a momentous book, both of its moment and going well beyond it. Sixty years on, it is still an unmitigated pleasure to read.

Now, Simon Armitage and Glyn Maxwell, both avowed admirers of Auden's in particular, have been to Iceland — this time at the invitation of the BBC — partly as a homage, partly, I imagine, as a dare. I missed the programme, which went out on Radio 3 last year; here,

Michael Hofmann

MOON COUNTRY
Further Reports from Iceland

By Simon Armitage and Glyn Maxwell
Faber, £7.99
ISBN 0 571 17539 2

though, is the book, *Moon Country*, with a spectacular sapphire-and-ice cover.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, there is no individual piece with the substance of Auden's *Letter to Lord Byron* or MacNeice's *Eclogue from Iceland*. In fact, there doesn't seem to be that much verse in the book, and what there is tends to be short, thin and (both senses) strained. Perhaps — and who could blame them? — the poets got cold feet. What does come through, though, is the lighter side of the project — the recording of fun, pleasure in one another's company, reaching out to a sympathetic audience.

The main vehicle for this is Armitage's diary of the trip. Dubbing himself *Petersson* and Maxwell *Jamesson*, *de l'icelandaise*, he describes in amusing if prefab prose the flying and driving and drinking and interviewing. When seasickness put him out of commission for the whole nine hours of a trawler trip, Max-



Good becoming moderate or poor, perhaps gale 8 later: southeast Iceland from *The Shipping Forecast*, by Mark Power (Zelda Cheate Press, £19.95)

well gallantly takes over in approved style: *Jamesson* of the BBC. You've obviously got to start fishing in a few minutes, so how do you feel?

Glyn Maxwell's main contribution is the really rather exhilarating verse play, *Harald and the Lonely Hearts*. He has, for instance, a chorus of a

million young Icelanders — even though there are only a quarter of a million, all told — hanging out in Reykjavik of a Friday night.

"There's nowhere to go in our capital town! It's here or it's bedtime, it's here hands down! We'll talk about that about stuff about talk! By the

light of the moon and the songs of Björk."

That sort of jaunty depreciation is the main note of *Moon Country*, more collective credibility than personal authority. Both poets are at their most persuasive when they say: "Read me, I am just like you!" The Thirties poets somehow

managed to be both. Auden, addressing the shade of Yeats, said: "You were silly like us." Siliness isn't a problem, either then or now. But in the Thirties, they had at least the temporary conviction of their convictions. Not now.

I suppose this is the temper of the times: we are debunk-

ing, fugitive, ingratiating, clever. Simon Armitage spots a three-volume *Ornithology of Iceland*, "which presumably doubled as a menu"; Maxwell's Greens — sounding like Red Indians — say: "Caucasians bad, Cetaceans good." As far as it goes, it can't really be bettered.

When ideas turn into their opposites

John Gray

THE SENSE OF REALITY
Studies in Ideas and their History

By Isaiah Berlin
Edited by Henry Hardy
With an introduction by Patrick Gardiner
Chatto & Windus, £20
ISBN 0 7011 6579 0

Ideas have consequences; but rarely those expected or hoped for, and never only those. Throughout his writings on intellectual history, Isaiah Berlin has illuminated the ways in which ideas — in politics, philosophy and religion — escape their authors' control and work to confound the view of the world they were meant to express.

In previous writings, he has shown how the philosophy of Hume, which was meant to inculcate a civilised scepticism, became in Germany — in the writings of Johann Hamann and others — one of the principal sources of fideism, glorifying faith and revelation and spurning human reason.

In one of the nine hitherto unpublished essays on topics and thinkers as diverse as socialism, the Romantic movement and Rabindranath Tagore that are collected in this engrossingly readable volume, Berlin explains how the austere philosophy of Kant was one of the unfamiliar sources of nationalism. "Thus," he observes, "do ideas turn into their opposites."

Berlin has said that he gave up philosophy because he realised he would never be first-rate in the subject that was coming to be his core — logic. His account testifies chiefly to his innate modesty.

He may have had other reasons for turning to intellectual history. Abstract philosophical reasoning cannot capture in any system the varieties of human experience. Perhaps, in turning to the history of ideas, Berlin was only pursuing philosophy by other — and better — means.

By comparison with historians, dramatists and novelists, philosophers have not been notably good at understanding intractable conflict in human life. From Socrates onwards, they have succumbed to the idea that such conflict is — in the end — illusory. By contrast, Berlin's master-idea is that ethical conflicts — between uncombinable goods and unavoidable evils, between conflicting but equally valid claims of right — are real and ultimate. He does not greatly admire the project of ideology, which is to represent the evils and tragedies of human life as necessary parts in a perfect whole.

Like the great 19th-century Russian liberal Alexander Herzen, whom he so admires, Berlin is suspicious of the very idea of perfection. His writings on political thought reflect this suspicion: in this volume's title essay and in another on *Political Judgment*, Berlin questions the common view that what distinguishes the Utopian mind in politics is its vain defiance of inescapable laws.

In the natural sciences, no doubt, those who flout well-attested laws are rightly regarded as cranks. But in politics and ordinary life, it is the opposite error that distinguishes the crank. It is excessive faith in laws and methods derived from different disciplines — from natural science, engineering or economics — that marks out the Utopian mind in politics.

Utopians are not those who rebel against laws. They are those who think they have found such laws when in human affairs there are none. In a droll turnabout, the Utopian mind has lately found a home on the Right. The ineluctable necessities of the market have replaced the ineluctable laws of history which captivated an earlier generation of ideologues. Who could have foreseen that in the closing decades of the 20th century the world would be ruled by a species of conservative Utopianism?

Yet a smattering of history suggests that the tenure in power of so doctrinaire a turn of mind is unlikely to be long. For anyone who reads these subtle, impassioned and playful essays, the ironies of our present condition will seem less unfamiliar, and more like unnumbered moments in the past when ideas have turned into their opposites.

Poet who gives his soul for Wales

Russell Celyn Jones

FURIOUS INTERIORS
Wales, R. S. Thomas and God

By Justin Wintle
HarperCollins, £20
ISBN 0 00 25371 9

Wales has been a divided country ever since the English-Welsh language fault line opened up in the late 18th century. Caught in the crossfire of the battle for the soul of the nation are two literatures which are perilously close to the point of cancelling each other out.

Furious Interiors examines this internecine — as a historiography of Wales and unofficial biography of Wales's greatest living poet, R. S. Thomas, who has embodied the conflict for the latter half of the 20th century. Justin Wintle is an Englishman who now lives in Wales and brings to the discussion both distance and empathy for his subject.

One suspects, reading this, that the heirs of the now defunct Nonconformist chapel society redeployed themselves into the media and academia. They canvass for the Welsh language with the same evangelical fervour as their forefathers. Welsh has become the new religion. It is the subject of Wales now, for R. S. Thomas in particular: the Anglican vicar who preaches in verse.

For other admirers of Wales, from Arnold to Amis, the language is also the problem. While Matthew Arnold conceded that the English could do with an infusion of Celtic temperament, "the Welsh language," he said, "is the curse of Wales." And what is risible to Kingsley Amis are the bilingual signs like *tad/taisi*. Prejudices are quotidian: "Never ask for directions in Wales," says Blackadder. "You'll be washing spit out of your hair for a fortnight."

What the high priests of Welsh do in the face of this hostility is to "cast out" such writers from the canon, or put a hex on them: black spots and voodoo dolls. R. S.'s response was to "create an art out of resentment. His poetry is tribal, propaganda and Wintle offers a detailed and insightful analysis of that work. Elsewhere, with his friend Ianto Owens, Wintle goes searching for his "quarry" on foot. Like Quixote and Sancho they try to unravel "illusion from reality." In pubs they listen to people describing R. S. as an isolate, a misanthrope who deliberately blocks country lanes with his old Mini.

Whatever R. S.'s condition is, there is no doubt that it has come about by being in Wales. Over five decades he has created an emotional correspondence with its harsh landscape, adopted nationalism and forced all through a narrow aperture. Racist attitudes sit alongside his search for grace. As with Ezra Pound, whose fascist sympathies, rather than eclipsing his work, generated edginess — so too with Thomas, whose Modernism clashes head-on with political and religious fundamentalism.

R. S.'s caracoles terminated in the Llyn peninsula, where the peasants suffer like God's subjects are meant to. The Welsh are the chosen race. But no sooner does R. S. glimpse Eden before the Fall — in the mountains, in a bird of prey, in a peasant at work — than it is lost when an English tourist walks by.

His invective against England has always been perplexing. He was married to an upper-class Englishwoman for 50 years, sent his son to public school over the border and wrote in the "thin" language he so vilifies, while castigating other Welsh writ-



Thomas: nationalist

bard, and every major event up until the end of the 20th century to have had an effect on Wales. And it is the 20th century R. S. blames for "destroying what was left of the Middle Ages in Wales." Wintle officiates: "R. S.'s love of Wales implies a history that in its simplicity never was." The Welsh have always collaborated in their assimilation, from the Norman Conquests to the American entertainment colonisation of our times.

In the final analysis, R. S. Thomas sits outside all movements and schools. His exactitude has as much to do with Latin phrasing and his reading of English poets as his deep knowledge of Welsh prosody. And despite his stance against the world, the world reads admiringly. *Furious Interiors* is a scholarly yet lucid biography of this major poet and it is hard to imagine a better one being written.

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Dressed not just to kill

Hardy Amies
admires the
splendid variety of
the soldier's dress
down the ages

This book is as beautifully tailored as are the uniforms it describes. It is as orderly as a military parade. It is composed of just under 300 pages, of which one third is given to the listing of the notes.

The author, Scott Hughes Myerly, is presumably a Harvard man. One gets the precision of words and the sensitive research we expect from an American academician.

Although writing about the military scene, with many aspects of which we have been brought up, there are some fascinating bits of information. Did you know that the word "tigh", meaning drunk, is "a tailor's slang expression that has survived from the early 19th century, equating the tightness of military dress with drunkenness?"

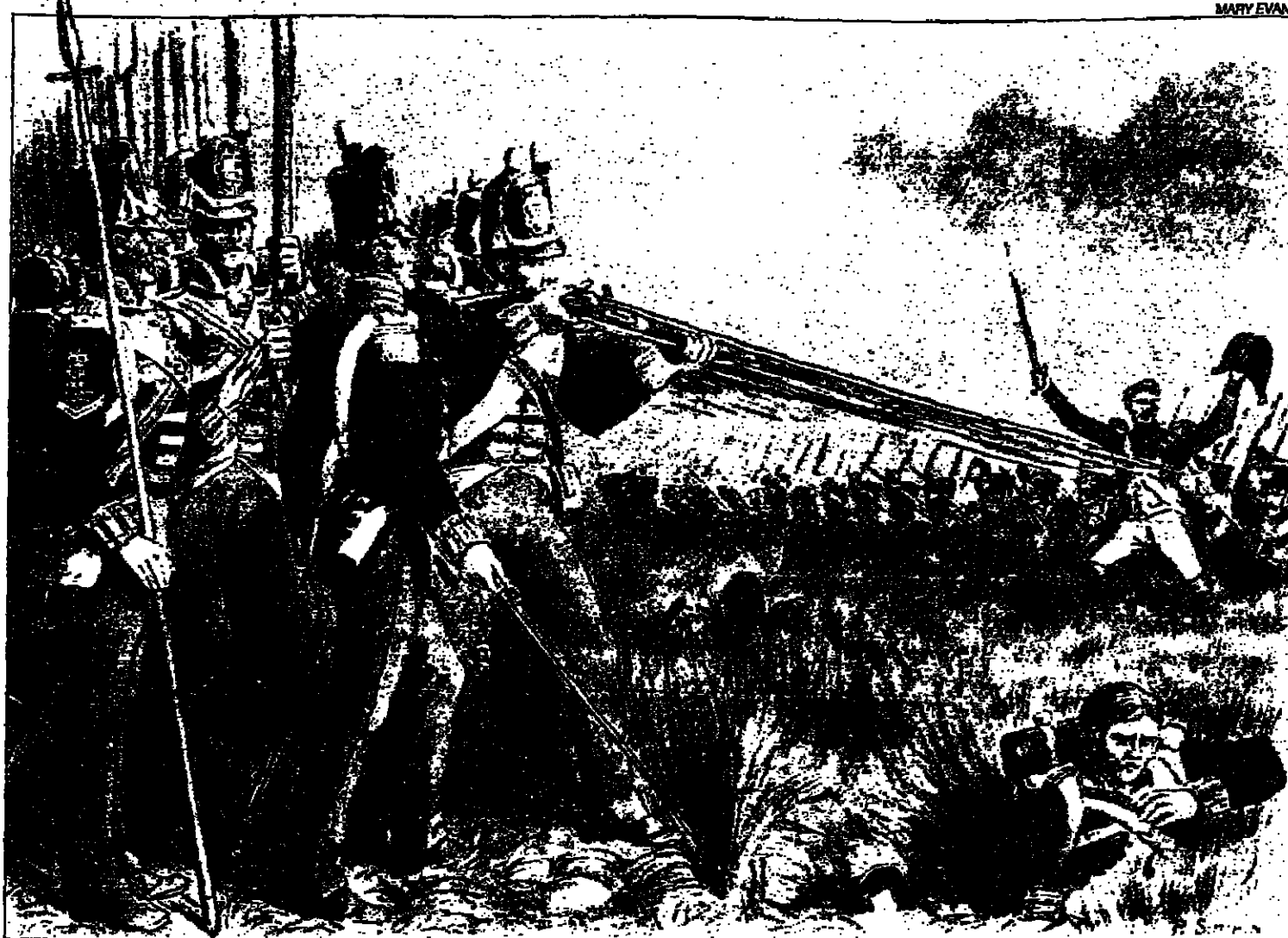
It is interesting to read how powerful was the influence of the colonel of a regiment himself, particularly on the taste of the uniform. There was tremendous competition. "Height requirements also influenced decisions on promotion. Promising or deserving soldiers were often prevented from attaining higher rank because commanders liked to promote tall, good-looking men." Fascinating it is to read that the expression "being dressed to the nines" originated in the impressive sartorial appearances of the Ninety-Ninth Foot of the 1850s.

Informative trouble is taken in describing all details of dress. There appears to have been no guidance from a War Office. But the King was the supreme commander. Interest in the details of the uniform varied with the Sovereigns. "The Royal Georges, especially, tended to put appearance before their troops' need for practical dress."

The book emphasises the difference between service and parade dress. Service dress became important during the Crimean War.

Otherwise the book is full of the most meticulous descriptions of parade dress. This, of course, interested the Regent, subsequently George IV. We all know how friendly he was with Beau Brummell.

We are told firmly that military dress does not concern itself with fashion and that the wearing of uniform is controlled by those who wield authority. The fact is that display was clearly helped by the horses. The long torso of the tall Guardsman looks undeniably splendid on a horse. The cavalry uniform was, of course, controlled by the sleeve of the traditional riding coat. The narrow shaped sleeve was cut high in the armhole, remaining neat when holding reins.



In the 19th century, appearance was often put before the need for practical military dress: infantry of the Napoleonic era, circa 1810

BRITISH MILITARY SPECTACLE

From the Napoleonic Wars through the Crimea

By Scott Hughes Myerly

Harvard University Press, £23.50

ISBN 0 674 08249 4

did on a horse. The cavalry uniform was, of course, controlled by the sleeve of the traditional riding coat. The narrow shaped sleeve was cut high in the armhole, remaining neat when holding reins.

In his usual thorough way, our author does not neglect the Infantry. It is stated that "Khaki" was introduced in 1849 for the East India Company unit. He can say that the British Army provided one of the best military shows in Europe. He also points out that the privates' pay of a shilling a day did not deter recruiting: the bait was clearly the attractive and seductive uniform. He quotes Jane Austen's Lydia Bennett, but not Mrs Bennett who herself recalls: "I remember the time I liked a red coat myself very well — and indeed so I do still in my heart."

Red coats do not stop him from telling of the need of drink to placate the other ranks. The rum ration was distributed every day before breakfast and "alcoholism was so widespread that those who did not drink were often ostracised by their fellows". Such a statement is typical of the author's wish to present the Armywarts and all. But the large picture is one of great splendour and use.

Use is illustrated by the description of riots in the chapter "Civil Disorder" — called in to help the police. It was sometimes found that other ranks sided with the rioters. But mostly the Army was an instrument of law and order. Its great weapon was discipline. But the discipline at its heart created the victories of the Napoleonic and Crimean Wars.

The martial and admired orderly life produced the Salvation Army — army, be it noted! — and for the young, the Boys' Brigade — brigade

nored. Even Mrs Beeton was bitten by the military bug. She informed her readers that — as with the command of an army or the leader of any enterprise, so it is with a house: standing orders, inspections, orders for the day and regularity.

It is in his admiration for display that our painstaking author is at his best. He sees all parades as a show of power, arousing strong national pride. The Guards, headed by The Blues (the Royal Horse Guards), are the stars. Today a visit to Hyde Park, to the area between the Serpentine and the barracks, will reward you with a pang of pride at the sight of the gleaming breastplates and horsehair flowing from the helmets. On your way to the park you may have to wrestle with the crowds outside Buckingham Palace waiting to see the Changing of the Guard.

Funerals like that of the Duke of Wellington in 1852 were an inspiration. It interested me to have it pointed out that Queen Victoria requested in her will that she have a military funeral.

I fear I have produced inadequate examples to prove to you that this is a most entertaining and scholarly work. Charm comes with the author's pleasure in anecdotes; for example, in describing the very high and tight collar which was at the neck of the body-fitting tunic, we are told that not only was this "stock" made of whalebone but sometimes of metal. It must at times have been uncomfortable to hold their heads up.

Regulated by the immaculate white breeches on the cover one cannot help wondering what was worn underneath. The venerable Cunningham's *The History of Underclothes* is not very good on military gear. Long pants certainly. "Y-fronted jockey shorts were a few years off. They would not do. There would be UPL. What's that? Ugly panty line, of course."

Sir Hardy Amies's The Englishman's Suit is published by Quartet, priced £14.

Of siblings and success

Frank Sulloway, a research scholar at MIT, is justly renowned for his book *Freud: Biologist of the Mind*, which was published in 1979. His new book seeks to answer an important question. How is it that some men and women of genius have the courage to reject contemporary paradigms and revolutionise the way we think? Have innovators such as Copernicus and Darwin anything in common? Why is it that some people eagerly embrace new discoveries, while others defend the status quo?

Sulloway has investigated one particular characteristic of the highly original. As Alfred Adler claimed during the early years of this century, birth order is important. Sulloway affirms that the majority of innovators are later-born children. Human beings, like other animals, usually invest more of the family resources in first-born children. As a result, first-born children tend to be conservative, socially dominant, and content with currently accepted beliefs. The later-born, being less favoured, are more likely to feel that they have to prove their worth by being different. This hypothesis also seeks to explain why children sharing the same parents are often surprisingly different from one another.

It is easy to find exceptions to Sulloway's thesis. Few individuals have been so revolutionary in their thinking or had so great an impact upon the world as Newton, Einstein and Freud. Yet all were first-born sons. Newton was a sickly, premature baby, whose father had died before he was born, and whose mother remarried when he was three, leaving him in the care of his grandmother. Sulloway suggests that Newton's resentment at this treatment accounts for his not exhibiting the usual pattern of first-born behavior.

four. Einstein was the first-born child of his parents; a sister followed two and a half years later. Einstein was one of the most original and revolutionary scientists ever born, but he does not conform to Sulloway's pattern, and Sulloway does not venture an explanation.

Freud was the first-born of his mother, but not of his father, since Amalia was his father's third wife. She subsequently bore seven more children, but Sigmund Freud remained her indispensable favourite, and Freud himself attributed his inner confidence in his originality to her continuing love.

However, exceptions prove the rule, and these examples, striking as they are, do not invalidate Sulloway's main contention about the differences between first and subsequent children, which he supports by a formidable quantity of research and a mass of statistics.

But Sulloway's concentration on birth order is limiting. Creative innovation is also spurred by temperamental traits and personal peculiarities. Sulloway points out that the parents of Charles Dickens sent his elder sister to the Royal School of Music, but dispatched him to work in a blacking factory: a humiliation which may partially have motivated him to write as a way of proving his worth. But it is also the case that Dickens had the temperament of a manic-depressive. He had to be ceaselessly overactive, writing two books at once, acting, editing, or going for 20-mile walks. If he was idle, he relapsed into depression. Many writers have been driven in similar fashion.

Sulloway's huge book is a valuable contribution to the study of creativity, but birth order is only one of a large number of different factors which inspire originality and fuel rebellion against current paradigms.

And Irish eyes were smiling

Raymond Seitz

THE GREENING OF THE WHITE HOUSE
By Conor O'Clery
Gill & Macmillan, £12.99
ISBN 0 7171 2491 6

This book is essential reading for every serious student of Irish history. The author, Conor O'Clery of *The Irish Times*, was the only Irish journalist accredited to the White House from 1992 to 1995, and he thus enjoyed a long-running Gerry Adams Show.

With commendable dispassion, O'Clery reconstructs the interplay of Irish and American politics, and the triumph of Sinn Féin in the Clinton presidency. For many years, the responsible Irish lobby in America had distinguished between the democratic, constitutional parties in Northern Ireland and the advocates of violence. The Friends of Ireland in the United States Congress more or less lumped together Sinn Féin and the IRA. And Irish issues seemed pretty parochial when set within the great global context of the Cold War.

All this started to unravel in the 1992 presidential campaign when candidate Clinton made a series of sympathetic promises to the more vociferous East Coast supporters of Irish republicanism. Within a year of his inauguration, he



Clinton and Adams meet in Falls Road, Belfast, 1995

was called to account. After all, circumstances had changed. London and Dublin signed their joint declaration in December 1993, and Her Majesty's Government had already conducted secret exchanges with Sinn Féin.

But as O'Clery points out, the critical difference came with the cast of characters who assembled on the new Irish stage. Most important of these was John Hume, the SDLP leader, who vouched for the sincerity of Gerry Adams's newfound commitment to peace.

Second in importance was the Kennedy connection: Senator Ted, whose own re-election prospects were in some doubt; Sister Jean, by now American Ambassador in Dublin, where her single-minded mission to unify Ireland caused an embassy rebellion (she described the retired terrorist Joe Cahill as "loveable and funny"); and former Kennedy aide Nancy Soderberg, ensconced as a senior White House adviser. The Kennedy circuit was first activated by Hume, then by the energetic Irish lobby and finally by winks and nods

from the Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds.

In early 1994, Gerry Adams applied for an American visa. He was asked to renounce violence and to endorse the joint declaration. Failing on both counts, he received the visa anyway. The idea, it seems, was to bolster Adams in his bargaining with the IRA command, and indeed, a ceasefire was announced seven months later, though a ceasefire was already on the cards. From then on, Irish policy was taken over by the White House.

The quo of the first visa never produced its quid. Instead, Adams, like Oliver, asked for more. And he got it. Through the following months, the Clinton White House made one concession after another, often backing away from its own conditions, until Adams became the green apple of the Washington eye.

Time and again, writes O'Clery, "the Administration ceded to the demands of Adams's promoters on the grounds that to do otherwise would risk unravelling the process."

O'Clery's rendering of events is faithful and serious. But after describing Clinton's triumphal tour of Ireland, and the climactic Docklands bomb ten weeks later, his narrative trails off. In the end, O'Clery seems reluctant to draw the conclusion which his own book suggests.

And the first among these is a cardinal rule of diplomacy: don't give unless you get.

Her small but perfect worlds

ANY publication by Alice Munro is cause for celebration: she is surely the mistress of her genre, the finest writer of short stories working in the English language today. In her *Selected Stories* (Chatto & Windus, £16.99; ISBN 0 7011 6521 9), Munro draws strength from the landscapes and history of her native Ontario and of British Columbia, and she conjures them in their absolute specificity.

This compendium gathers many of Munro's most memorable works, from early stories such as *Walker Brothers Cowboy*, about a child's shifting perception of her father in the Depression-ridden back roads of Ontario, to the subtle psychology of *Kandals*, a recent

piece, in which young Liza and Warren, sent to check on the empty house of friends, destroy it. In *Lichen*, Stella's ex-husband David comes to visit with his girlfriend, Catherine, and with whispered details about the woman for whom he plans to leave Catherine. The tenderness and bitterness of the story's characters seep through their exchanges and linger after the story ends.

Munro perhaps describes her own endeavour best

through the narrator of *Material*, a woman who reads a story by her ex-husband Hugo, which features a character based on a woman they knew in the early days of their marriage: "There is Doty, lifted out of life and held in light, suspended in the marvellous clear jelly that Hugo has spent all his life learning how to make. It is an act of magic, there is no getting around it: it is an act, you might say, of a special unspar-

ing, unsentimental love." This, truly, is Munro's gift.

The only sadness about this volume is that it does not contain all of Munro's stories, and that it includes no previously unpublished work. Nor does it offer any introduction by the author. Munro is present only in her unique style, which exemplifies the ideal set by her companion in greatness, Eudora Welty. Style ought to be, Welty wrote, "like the smoke from a fired cannon, like the ring in the water after the fish is pulled out or jumps back in". And the ripples of Munro's words, at once soothing and exciting, are glorious to behold.

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RACING: McCOY FRUSTRATED OVER CHEPSTOW COMMITMENT

Dunwoody moves swiftly to secure Teinein ride

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

AMID the gallery basking in glorious sunshine at Fontwell yesterday was one jockey who could not contemplate his fate. So frustrated was Tony McCoy that he still harboured hopes of riding Teinein on Saturday, several hours after Richard Dunwoody had been confirmed as his replacement.

Details of Dunwoody's booking for the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown spread like a forest fire. Teinein, unextended in two outings this season, was backed down to 7-2 from 9-2 with the sponsors. Yet McCoy insisted: "Nothing has been decided. We'll just have to wait and see." When Saturday comes, however, McCoy will be at Cheltenham to partner the Paul Nicholls-trained Belmont King in the Rehearsal Chase.

No one could blame the champion jockey for clutching at straws. After riding in the opener at Cheltenham nine

days ago, McCoy dashed more than 100 miles to Huntingdon to ride Teinein in the concluding event. He knew the contest was a formality. Teinein obliged in a common canter. Now he must forfeit what he feels will be a valuable payday. Asked about Teinein's chance, he responded:

Nap: SANMARTINO (2.50 Leicester)
Next best: Zeredar (2.50 Windsor)

ed: "He is well up to it. He is well up to anything, for that matter."

The soundings were equally positive in Dunwoody's camp. Last season, Dunwoody handied the Sandown contest on Chief's Song but he quickly rejected the option when approached by Teinein's connections. His agent, Robert

Parsons, said: "Richard rode Mouse Bird against Teinein at Worcester and he thought he would win that day. But Teinein sailed past him with ease."

If it all sounds like a formality, punters should consider The Grey Monk's Hennessy defeat at Newbury just five days ago. The Gordon Richards-trained chaser, rated a snip at the weights, was clearly outpointed by Coome Hill but was yesterday installed 4-1 favourite for the Coral Welsh National by the punters. Should he take it in, the Grey Monk will effectively compete for a 7lb higher mark than in his Hennessy defeat.

Richards, who has never won the Chepstow stamina test, appears keen to run but will wait another week before making plans. A soft surface will be to the horse's advantage but he needs time between his races, Richards reported. Coral then bets: 7-1

Billygoat Gruff, 10-1 Lo Stregone, General Wolfe, Parsons Boy, Sunny Bay, 12-1 Evangelica, Moorcroft Boy, Sister Stephanie, 14-1 bar.

Billygoat Gruff and St Mellion Fairway, who spearhead a strong entry from David Nicholson's stable, will both be in action on Saturday. The latter is expected to clash with the Noel Chance-trained Mr Mulligan, due to be schooled by David Bridgewater in Lagnaboun this morning.

Josh Gifford, who saddled Duke Of Apollon to victory in the Norfolk Chalice Cup at Fontwell yesterday, reported the imminent return of two of his injured stable stars. Brief Gale, a former winner of the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham, may reappear in the Benterwater Cup at Ascot later this month. And Bradbury Star, now recovered after prolonged treatment to an injured hock, will return at the first suitable opportunity — possibly at Chepstow on Saturday.



Serenus, left, on his way to winning the Eatham Juvenile Novices' Hurdle at Fontwell Park yesterday

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Fontwell Park

12.40 (2m 2 1/2 furlongs) 1. Serenus (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 2. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 3. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 4. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 5. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 6. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 7. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 8. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 9. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 10. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 11. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 12. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 13. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 14. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 15. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 16. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 17. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 18. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 19. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 20. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 21. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 22. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 23. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 24. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 25. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 26. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 27. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 28. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 29. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 30. Mollie (J. R. Parsons) 2.1. 31. Mollie (J. R. 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Toughs of the track reduced to mortal battle

This is a tale of two champions — two of the finest millers to grace a running track. Between them, they have run 265 sub-four-minute miles. Since they first began stalking each other around the athletic arenas of the world in the Seventies, their lives and careers have been strangely intertwined.

They are Steve Scott, of the United States, and John Walker, of New Zealand. Their achievements seem superhuman. Walker, the first man to better 3min 50sec for the distance, won Olympic gold and set a world record of 3min 49.08sec. He ran 129 miles inside four minutes. Scott ran 3min 47.69sec, completed in two Olympic Games and has broken the barrier on 136 occasions.

At the height of their powers their track-tuned bodies seemed indestructible. They dedicated their lives to health, fitness, records, medals. They would race anywhere, against everyone. They were the men who had everything. Now, cruelly, both have just about everything snatched away.

Walker, 44, is battling Parkinson's disease and will surely never run

again; Scott, 40, is fighting back after major surgery for cancer.

A decade ago they became caught up in a bizarre race to be the first man to complete 100 sub-four-minute miles. They haunted the commercial circus of grand prix races in Europe, living out of suitcases and subjecting their bodies to more demands than any before them had dreamt of. They were the first of a new breed, who turned their running into a job.

In previous eras, millers would carefully harbour their physical and mental energies for one or two supreme efforts each season. Walker and Scott would turn out such performances as routine, sometimes as often as two or three times a week. Their idea of a peak, a world-class effort, might come around every Wednesday and Friday.

There are those in sport who believe that nature always calls in her overdraughts, and who knows what punishment these two inflicted on their bodies?

The crowds, and the promoters, loved them. Walker, in particular, was one of the great spectacles of athletics. In full flight, clad all in



black, with his flowing golden locks, he was a magnificent animal. Six feet tall, 11½ stone, he vibrated down the home straight with an arrogance and passion that were unforgettable.

He says now that coming that hair, knocking on a door or signing his name has become difficult. Writing with immense dignity about his illness in *The New Zealand Herald*, Walker said: "I'm not looking for sympathy. Sure, I struggle to do things I had always taken for granted, like brushing my teeth and writing, and it takes me time to do other things like turning pages and getting out of bed, but, thankfully, I still have full mobility on my left side."

"Initially, I feared [and so did my children] that I was going to be like Muhammad Ali, but I have been assured I won't shake like him and that I should live a reasonably normal life with only a very gradual

deterioration over the years. There are a lot of people worse off than me."

For Walker and Scott, the racing did not end even when they had each clocked up 100 and more sub-four-minute miles. Another challenge beckoned. Each believed that he could be the first to break the barrier when the prize was \$100,000.

That prize was snatched from them when Eamonn Coghlan, the Irishman, ran 3min 58.15sec in 1994, and on an indoor track. It has still not been achieved outdoors.

Despite coming close to death two years ago, Scott could be the man to do it. He was operated on for testicular cancer. "The surgery," Scott said, "was serious stuff. They removed 35 lymph nodes from my groin to my lungs. I believe I learnt what caused it. My life had been in turmoil the year before my surgery, primarily because my running had been so bad that I had to begin thinking about a new career."

"I had created so much emotional and physical stress in my system that it weakened my body's normal defences. I believe that caused my body to succumb to this cancer."

Like Walker, Scott looks for no pity and has responded to his illness like a champion. He is back in training and, according to Marc Bloom, his friend and biographer, "he looks as healthy as a horse". At the end of September he won the Masters (over-40) division of the Fifth Avenue Mile in 4min 06.57sec, after going through the half in 1min 57sec.

In the early days of his career Scott modelled himself on the compelling personality of Walker, who became his mentor and friend on the international track circuit.

Amazingly, this spring Scott will try to squeeze just one more sub-four-minute mile out of his ageing and battered body. If he does, I would like to think that he will do it as much for his old friend and rival as for himself. Six seconds is a lot to find by the spring, especially when you are lining up against the passing years and the surgeon's knife.

They are tough opponents; but, when it comes to the mile, opponents never came any tougher than Steve Scott and John Walker.

JOHN BRYANT

Of elephants and custard

My Granny's Larder. Radio 4, 8.45pm.

It's an ill wind... and all that. Had it not been for Elizabeth Bird's dyspepsia, aggravated by anything containing eggs, we would probably never have known the delights of instant custard. In the 1930s, her solicitous husband Alfred — latest in a long line of inventive Birds — created eggless custard powder. The rest, as they say, is history. Derek Cooper is charting the histories of bedtime and lunchtime wonders such as Horlicks, HP sauce, Camp coffee and Ribena. Tonight is all about custard, though the programme is a slight diversion in which Cooper recalls the publicity man's thought up by Thomas Lipton, of grocery fame. As a crowd-puller, he would use elephants to help to haul his latest imported cheeses through the streets of Glasgow.

Opera Matinee. Radio 3, 1.00pm.

You don't expect unanimity from classical music pundits, so when it does happen, it deserves to be celebrated in print. One of Radio 3's five choices of the best opera compact discs of the year is Handel's *Ariodante* on the Harmoni Mundi label, conducted by Nicholas McGegan, and with a cast headed by Lorraine Hunt and Juliana Craciun. The same CD has been picked by one of BBC Music Magazine's team of critics who have been surveying the title-packed 1996 recording scene. It is this much-praised CD that Radio 3 is broadcasting this afternoon.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 The Alan Partridge Show 12.30pm 12.45 News 2.00 Nick Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, includes at 5.30-5.45 News 7.00 Evening Session Campus in Coventry with 10.00am Whilly and Steve Lamacz 10.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Soundbites, with Darryl Kelly 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 4.00pm Chris Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wales Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.15 Johnnie Walker 6.00am Mary and Joe, at 8.00pm by Cathy MacPhail, with Eileen McCallum, Jane D'Arcy and Kate Donnelly 7.30 David Allen 8.00 Paul Jones 8.45 Gospel Train, with Carol Pemberton 10.30 The Jamieson 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester, incl Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, with Dana Macleod 12.00 Midday with Mike Smith 12.30pm Moneyweek 2.00 Finance on Five 4.00 Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 Sports Bulletin 7.30 On the Line 8.05 Inside Edge 9.05 SportsAmerica 9.35 Sportsbook 10.05 News Talk, Paul Reynolds 11.00 Night News 12.00am News Hour — Sunday Call, with Vincent Harris 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anna Raskin 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Chisholm, with Peter Dinkley (FM) 10.00am Sportszone 10.00am James White 1.00pm Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour 5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 Network UK 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Composer of the Month 8.55 World Service 9.15 Sports International 9.45 Sport 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.30 Midday On Screen 12.00pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Assignment 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack 3.05 Sport 3.15 Jazz Now and Then 3.30 Network UK 4.15 World Today 4.30 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sport 6.30 Assignment 7.01 Outlook 7.28 Words of Faith 7.30 John Peel 8.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian Books 10.30 Britain Today 10.45 Sport 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Record Progress 11.30 The Ed Stewart Show 12.30am Good Books 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.30 Pick of the Week 3.15 Sport 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susan Harman 2.00pm Concerto: David Fux 3.00 Concerto No 2 in D minor, Op 31 3.00 Janine Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata, Albinoni (Sonata in A major, Op 1 No 1) 7.00 Travel Guide: Bermuda 8.00 Concerto: Mozart (Concerto in E flat; Mozart (Piano Concerto in D minor) 8.20 Letter from Geneva: Swiss publisher Michèle Stroum looks at what people in her city are reading 8.40 (Concert, part 2: Britain (Pissacaglia, Peter Grimes); Rouse (Symphony No 3) 9.40 The Jesus Diary: Producer Virginia Tillymore reflects that Jesus's public life spanned three years less time than it took her to make her television series for BBC 1 10.00 Music Restored: In a concert to mark the 450th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther, Paul McCreesh directs the Gabrieli Consort Players, and members of the audience, in treatments of Luther's Advent chorale Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland, with Linda Perle, soprano, Robin Blaze, alto, soprano, Cornelia tenor and George Miley, bass

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dore 1.00pm Jennifer Clark 4.00 Micky Byrne 7.00 Paul Coyne (FM) 10.00am Sportszone 10.00am James White 1.00pm Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, includes Stabat Mater (Scenes Historiques, Suite No 2); Britten (Come You Not from Newcastle) 6.50 An Advent Calendar, Carol performed by the National Youth Chamber Choir of Scotland, conductor Christopher Bell, Harry Walford Davies (O Little Town of Bethlehem); Chant (Puer Nobis Nascitur); Anon 9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday, includes Scarlatti, arr. Avison (Concerto No 11 in G); Dowland (Forlorn Hope Fancy) 10.00 Musical Encounters, includes Telemann (Cantata Gottlieb Kind, Lully (L'Enfance d'Enfance); Honegger (Moulin Sonata No 1); Scriabin (Piano Sonata No 4) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Lully, includes Lullabies, notations and subtitles from Les Amants Magnifiques, La Princesse d'Elide, Le Divertissement de Chambord and Le Triomphe de l'Amour 1.00pm Opera Matinee, See Choice 4.35 Scottish Reconstructions, Maxwell Davies (Pensiveness Scottish Dance); Judith Weir (The Bagpipers' String Trio); Maxwell Davies (Kilbride, The Farallies) 5.00 The Music Machine, Media laboratory guru Tod Machover talks about the future of opera. (His latest project: The Brain Opera) 5.15 In Tune, includes Heinrich (Concerto in F); Saint-Saens (Carnegie Concerto); Schubert (Piano Sonata in A) 7.30 BBC Philharmonic in Geneva, Live from the Victoria Hall, Geneva: The BBC Philharmonic, conductor Yan Pashkevich, Cecilia Ocasio, piano, Bridge (Suite The Seal, Saint-Saens (Piano Concerto No 2 in G minor) 8.20 Letter from Geneva: Swiss publisher Michèle Stroum looks at what people in her city are reading 8.40 (Concert, part 2: Britain (Pissacaglia, Peter Grimes); Rouse (Symphony No 3) 9.40 The Jesus Diary, Producer Virginia Tillymore reflects that Jesus's public life spanned three years less time than it took her to make her television series for BBC 1 10.00 Music Restored: In a concert to mark the 450th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther, Paul McCreesh directs the Gabrieli Consort Players, and members of the audience, in treatments of Luther's Advent chorale Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland, with Linda Perle, soprano, Robin Blaze, alto, soprano, Cornelia tenor and George Miley, bass 10.45 Night Waves, Sally Magnusson presents a discussion on what new writing is more healthy in Scotland than in England 11.30 Composers of the Week: American Symphonists (I) 12.30 Jazz Notes, Features Jimmy Skidmore 1.00 The Night, with David Mervin, includes 1.00 Choral Evensong (I) 2.00 Hartmann, Strauss and Schubert 3.40 Schubert (Piano Sonata in A) 5.00 Sequence

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Evening Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 The Morning News, Michael Buerk chairs a debate on the moral issues behind the week's news, joining him are Dr David Clark, Janet Daley, Michael Mansfield, QC, and Dr David Starkey 10.00 News, Woodruff Girls (FM) Marlene Carey's comedy lifts the lid on the life of a showbiz business, with Fiona Bell, Wendy Seager and Tom Smith (2/4) 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Women's Hour, with Jenni Murray 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent, with Mark Whitaker 12.00 News, You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker 12.25pm Foul Play Chairman Simon Brett challenges crime writers Lady Antonia Fraser and Reginald Hill to solve a mystery 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (I) 1.55 Shipping 2.00 News A Breath of Fresh Air, by Graham Fitt, When death stalked the streets of Paris at the time of the French Revolution, nobody was safe — not even the greatest chemist of his day, With Henry Goodman, Helena Brock and Anton Lesser 3.00 News The Afternoon Shift, Simon Heppert conducts his political notice's guide to personality types commonly found among our MPs 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Paul Allen reviews Jonathan Miller's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream 4.45 Short Story: Magic, by Gas Wilson 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Hair in the Gate, by Clive Coleman, with Geoffrey Whitehead and Rebecca Front (4/4) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Radio Live: Professor Peter Dinkley, after the last of six portraits of the great names in radio, TV and beyond, with Laurie Taylor 8.00 Analysis, Over the last 20 years, how under have seen their influence curbed and their membership decline, Peter Kolras asks whether we still need them 8.45 My Granny's Larder, See Choice 9.00 Does He Tell Sugar? Concluded by Freddie Dove 9.30 Kaleidoscope (I) 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Sleeping Beauty and the Alps, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (I) 11.00 Beaumarchais, by Craig Warner, with Henry Goodman, Stephen Redmond and Sean Baker (5/5) 11.30 All About Eve (FM), Lorelei King talks to the woman who inspired her about the women who inspired them (I) 11.30 Today in Parliament (LW) 12.00 News 12.27am Weather 12.30 The Line 5.00am Carol, by Peter Dinkley (8/10) (I) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.9-99.5. RADIO 2, FM 80.0-80.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 82.4-84.5. LW 695. LW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, LW 628, 629. WORLD SERVICE: LW 695, LW 198 (12.45-1.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100.1-102. WISDOM RADIO, FM 105.6. MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1080. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamee.

Losers.

TENNIS: AMERICAN BOOED OFF COURT AFTER ANOTHER SPIRITLESS DISPLAY

Jeers for Agassi's shadow play

FROM ALIX RAMSAY
IN MUNICH

ANDRE AGASSI left the Olympia Halle here yesterday to a chorus of boos and whistles after losing 6-3, 6-4 to Mark Woodforde in the first round of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup.

The Munich public, more concerned with football scores than with forehands and backhands, may not know a lot about tennis but they know what they like and the man from Las Vegas is a long way from being flavour of the month in Bavaria.

The spectators had forked out up to DM150 (over £60) for the dubious privilege of sharing their afternoon with Agassi and had expected rather more than the lacklustre display on offer.

Agassi, who is now to take a six-week break from the game — he will miss the Australian Open — appeared to try his best to lose quickly and quietly but, unfortunately for him, Woodforde would not let him. With the first set already gone and having lost his service to go 3-2 down in the second, Agassi could reasonably have expected Woodforde to take charge.

But if Agassi was looking for an easy way out, he was not going to get it. Woodforde threw away his own service and only with considerable help from Agassi did he manage to edge into the lead again. The only real contest



Agassi plays a forehand return during the lacklustre affair against Woodforde, who won in straight sets

seemed to centre around who wanted to win least, and Agassi won that hands down. It was another dreadful match to add to his miserable year. Since losing in the quarter-finals of the US Open,

Agassi has had his mind set on taking a break to rest, train and wipe away the memories of 1996. His autumn campaign has been a catalogue of below-par performances and first-round defeats.

"There is definitely a lack of motivation on the goal of trying to win a couple of tournaments this fall," he said, "because, to me, if I don't play my best tennis, it's not worth it. It's just not." That was more or less what the crowd thought, too. "I seem to thrive in digging myself in a bit of a hole and getting excited to come out of it again," Agassi said. "It's nothing that concerns me but it's something that I certainly need to address. Certainly, I am taking the time off in the hope and desire and plan of getting strong, fit and getting my game back to where it can

be. I don't need any miracle cures. I just need to get back to good old fundamentals."

What Goran Ivanisevic needs is a good barber. He may have the most intimidating service on the men's tour

Results — 45

but the world No 4 is most definitely tormented by lack of motivation. Last year he won in Munich with more hair on his chin than on his head; this year the hair has returned with a vengeance. It is tied up in a ponytail, rising from the top of his scalp, to make him appear for all the world like a little Christmas tree.

But, whatever the hairstyle, it is still the same old Ivanisevic underneath. Yesterday he blasted 20 aces past

Mikael Tillström to win 6-4, 6-2 in just under an hour and now plays Woodforde tomorrow for a place in the semi-finals.

Tim Henman also has his sights on a semi-final spot. Today he takes on MaliVai Washington, whom he beat in straight sets in Nottingham in June, to see if he can go through to meet either Boris Becker or Jacob Hlasek on Saturday.

This time last week Hlasek could not have imagined he would be in the quarter-finals of the Grand Slam Cup, but yesterday's 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 win over Cedric Pioline, one of France's Davis Cup heroes, put him through.

Not bad for a player who announced his retirement last month. The unexpected spoils will no doubt help to top up his pension fund.

Britain must win to avoid swift return

GREAT BRITAIN must beat Slovakia today to avoid relegation from the champions' division at the European men's team championship in Reggio Calabria, Italy.

The British team of Danny Sapsford, Andrew Richardson and Paul Robinson, with Jeremy Bates as its non-playing captain, were beaten 2-1 by Sweden on Tuesday, when the Slovaks won their first division, from which they gained promotion last year.

In the absence of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedjki, Britain's leading men, Sapsford, 27, from Surrey, is the highest world-ranked player among the two teams at No 195, with Richardson, from Lincolnshire, at No 326 and Robinson, from Northampton, who has only just returned to full-time tennis, at No 584.

Martin Hronec, the Slovak No 1, is ranked No 249 and Tomas Catar, their second string, is No 337. The contest will be decided by two singles rubbers and, if necessary, a deciding doubles.

Answers from page 42

DARLIE

(a) A party or tart, usually sweet in English. From the 14th-century French *darle*, a small party filled with "fish, herbes, and spices, mingled and minced together". Now a cream tart. Quentin Durward, 1823: "Ordering confections, darlies, and any other light dainties he could think of."

DISMEMBRATOR

(a) Something that dismembers or disintegrates. Specifically, an apparatus for separating flour from bran, after crushing in a roller mill. From the medieval Latin *dismembrare* to dismember.

EXCIPULUM

(a) A layer of cells lying beneath and partially enclosing, as a cap, the apothecium in lichens. From the Latin *excipulum*, a receptacle, found only in the plural. From *excipere* to receive.

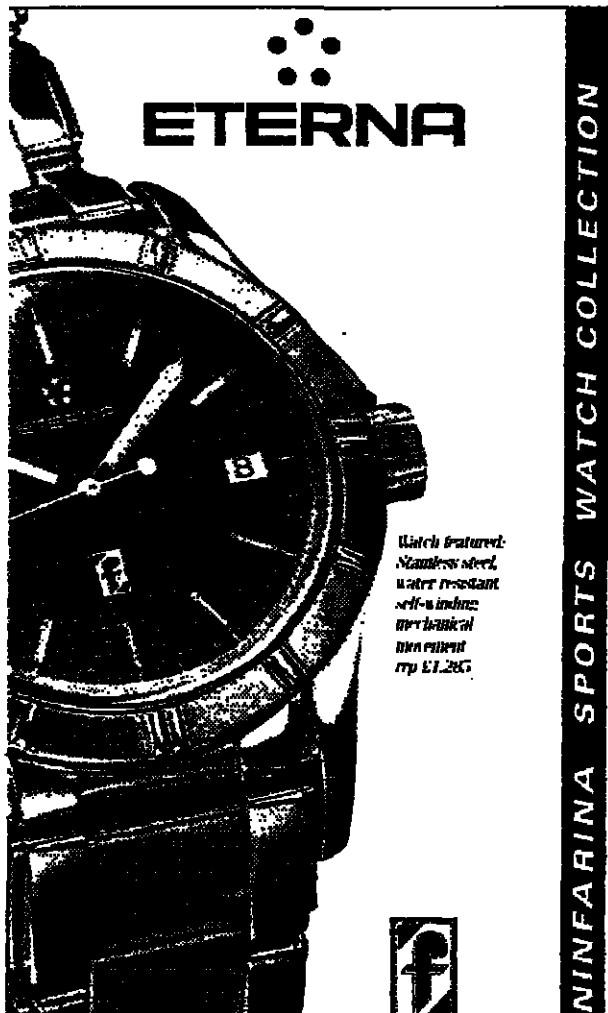
DEAURATE

(a) Gilded or golden, from the Latin *deauratus*, the past participle of *deaurare* (late) Latin, to gild over. "Of so eye-bewitching, and deaurate ruddy dye is the skin-coat of this landgrave."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

I repeat anyway, e.g. 1... Bxd4 2 Rxb3 3 a5 Bc5 (Black could hold up the pawns with 3... Bb8, but then 4 Kd4 followed by Kd5 and the three queenside pawns will soon decide the game) 4 b5 b4 5 a6 and the advance of the pawns will force a new queen.

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Losers, winners and the merely alienated

It's not often you see a metaphor made flesh, but if you ever desired to see one, last night's *Modern Times: Going for Broke* (BBC2) was happy to oblige. The story was simple: Keith Sinclair's market-leading horse-box business in Lincolnshire had gone under, but he refused to accept either liquidation or bankruptcy. Instead, against all advice, he planned to sue his bank (Barclays) for misadventure in the world of equine transport. A chain-smoker now living alone and embattled in a caravan, Keith was a tiresome, argumentative man, who would settle for nothing less than public recognition of his brilliant achievements in the world of equine transport. Offered practical help, he would refuse it. Shown evidence of awkward facts, he would tear it up. In short, he was a man to drive you mad.

People watching at home, of course, soon recognised that Keith

was flogging a dead horse—which was where the astonishing visual metaphor came in. Because in the last quarter of the film, suddenly (literally) an old horse collapsed in Keith's paddock, and Keith tried (literally) to make it get up. "Come on," he urged the big creature, his arms around its neck. Keith loved this horse, you see, and it was dying. He tried again. "Come on." But the horse would not get up, and Keith was powerless. For the first time he shed tears, and his weeping was enough to break your heart. Keith's hard luck story was so badly argued that you often wanted to hit him; but when he tried to lift that horse, he aroused nothing short of pity.

Frustrating and edgy, *Going for Broke* was a fine documentary on an unpromising subject. Keith is the ranter you run away from after two minutes' acquaintance, because he's more concerned to prove a point than improve the

situation he's complaining about. *Going for Broke* mainly concerned an episode in Keith's struggle, when Mike, an insolvency expert (and possibly unlicensed saint), offered professional help. But the ungrateful Keith was soon arguing with him. "I built this business up singlehandedly! I sold a horse ambulance to the Sultan of Brunei! I have international contacts!" Mike was patient, and brokered with Barclays, but then discovered discrepancies, suspected fraud, and gave up. Helping Keith was like banging your head against a brick wall—and if Mike had decided to perform that act literally, we would certainly have understood.

Somebody with equal reason to complain about banks is the eponymous Matt of *Matt's Million*—an enjoyable children's series on ITV, which reached its third episode yester-

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

day. But no unpleasant litigation is in the air here. Banks are very nice to Matt, as are solicitors and Rolls-Royce salesmen. He is a schoolboy with a million quid. And his nature is so sweetly innocent that he doesn't even despise his lawyers—which, I have to say, detracts from the moral educative value of the series quite considerably.

How different the story would be, from a Keith Sinclair perspec-

ive. Take Matt's big surprise in episode one. A 12-year-old, living with his mother, Matt opens a letter at breakfast and finds a cheque for £1,227,309.57, sent by a firm of solicitors. Why? Well, it turns out that a computer game Matt wrote was sold by the firm without his knowledge, and he has now been marketed worldwide!

A young, sincere, clever, Hoddle lookalike solicitor tells him the story. Apparently he has brought a senior partner to light. Given the (seemingly) irregularities, says Hoddle, do you still want us to handle your business affairs? "Oh yes," enthuses Matt, his eyes like saucers. "You seem to have done an excellent job so far!"

I just hope Keith Sinclair hasn't been watching. At the bank, a smiling manager tells the child that his daily interest is £338. "Hoorah!" says Matt. *Matt's Million* is a very nice series, and

young Peter England is a natural star—but I resent the way it makes me feel old and cynical. Those people have ripped you off, Matt! Don't you do copyright at school? And think about it: if you get 10 per cent of every sale in Japan, where does the other 90 go? What does this snarling Glenn Hoddle man get out of it? Also, don't trust the bank to give you the best rate of interest. Listen to *Money Bar* on Radio 4 at the first opportunity! See sense, Matt, before it is too late!

Perhaps the reason for the preposterous success of *The X-Files* (BBC2) is that money (for once) just never enters into it. In most dramas, it's the desire for money or love that drives people to do unpleasant things, whereas in *The X-Files*, it's contact with aliens, or the criminal impulse to preserve unthinkable secrets. So the money motive gets a rest,

which is a good thing. In *The X-Files*, the world is still full of corrupt, untrustworthy people, but if the bank manager is mean and distant, and forecloses your business, it's because his eyeballs go black in certain lights, and he's hiding something big.

Last night's episode was the first of a two-parter, and followed all the usual rules. In *The X-Files* a man can only come home and stare unblinkingly (for half a second) at his own wedding photo, and the viewer jumps automatically to the correct assumption: yawn, yawn, this man's body has been hijacked by aliens. The natural response: "What's going on?" is unrounded in the living rooms of Britain. Yes, to the universal cognoscence, the deduction is not only obvious, it's also just a minor plot development, which we take in our stride. "So, OK, this man's body has been hijacked by aliens," we huff impatiently, "but then what?"

- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST** (2414)
7.00am BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (1) (13785)
8.00am BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (1) (155582)
9.20am STYLE CHALLENGE (4038501)
9.45am KILROY (8645650)
10.30am CANT COOK, WON'T COOK (82230)
11.00am NEWS (T) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (354834)
11.05am THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW Consumer series (585747)
11.45am SMILLIE'S PEOPLE Celebrity chat show (1931358)
12.00am NEWS (T) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (4979891)
12.05pm SNOWY RIVER - THE MCGREGOR SAGA (3071495)
12.50am A DIFFERENT COUNTRY PRACTICE (3097422)
1.00am NEWS (T) and weather (16872)
1.30am REGIONAL NEWS (5247178)
1.40am NEIGHBOURS (T) (29815834)
2.00am CALL MY BLUFF (1747)
2.30am THE TERRACE (679)
3.00am INCOGNITO (3582)
3.30am LITTLE BEAR (1738872) 3.55 *Amin* and the Chipmunks (5199589) 4.20 *Julia* Jolly and *Harriet Hare* (519327) 4.35 *Smart* (780983) 5.00 *Newsround* (T) (540230) 5.10 *The Biz* (T) (8759307)
5.35am NEIGHBOURS (T) (29815834)
6.00am NEWS (T) and weather (308)
6.30am REGIONAL NEWS (360)
7.00am WATCHDOG Consumer magazine presented by Anne Robinson (553)
7.30am EASTENDERS *Hugh and Lenny* hit the showers, while *Alan* has more problems at home (T) (872)
8.00am ANIMAL HOSPITAL *Roll Harris* rounds off the series on the work of the *Harrowood Animal Hospital* (T) (4211)
8.30am 2POINT4 CHILDREN Family life sitcom (T) (5178)
9.00am NINE O'CLOCK NEWS (T) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (4056)
9.30am THE THIN BLUE LINE *Di Gdn* decides to lead the war against drugs and the station locker room goes unisex. With *Rowan Atkinson* (T) (86399)
10.00am CROCODILE SHOES: SUE 1 Dream Continuing the story of *Jack Steppeler*, who this week is more concerned by his sister's future than his own. With *Jimmy Nail* (872205)
10.55am QUESTION TIME *David Dimbleby* chairs a live political debate with *Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew*, *SDP leader John Hume* and the deputy leader of the *Ulster Unionist Party*, *John Taylor* (T) (254930)
11.55am CLIVE ANDERSON ALL TALK With *Gillie* (T) (630872)
12.30am FILM: Murder C.O.D. (1990) with *William Devane* as a voyeuristic killer who uses sophisticated surveillance equipment to watch and listen to strangers. Directed by *Alan Metzger* (35612)
2.00am WEATHER (2094029)

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SKY 1
7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (165384) 8.00 *Police Report* (19378) 8.30 *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (165385) 9.00 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165386) 9.30 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165387) 10.00 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165388) 10.30 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165389) 11.00 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165390) 11.30 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165391) 12.00 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165392) 12.30 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165393) 1.00 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165394) 1.30 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165395) 2.00 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165396) 2.30 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165397) 3.00 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165398) 3.30 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165399) 4.00 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165400) 4.30 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165401) 5.00 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165402) 5.30 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165403) 6.00 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165404) 6.30 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165405) 7.00 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165406) 7.30 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165407) 8.00 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165408) 8.30 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165409) 9.00 *Star Trek: Voyager* (165410) 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BRYANT'S EYE 46

Rival athletes united in toughest battle

SPORT

THURSDAY DECEMBER 5 1996

TENNIS 46

Woodforde inflicts humiliation upon listless Agassi



Military end to n

Prospect of embarrassing defeat recedes as Croft and Tufnell strike

Spinners help England to turn the corner

FROM SIMON WILDE IN HARARE

HARARE (second day of four): Mashonaland, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 82 runs ahead of England

A COLLAPSE in the lower half of the Mashonaland batting order may not exactly be cause for national rejoicing, but it could mark a turning point on the tour of Zimbabwe. England still face an uphill battle to avoid an embarrassing defeat at the hands of the provincial side in the weakest Test country in the world, but one session of good cricket — plus the benefit of some poor umpiring — may finally have sparked them out of their somnolence.

An hour after tea on the second day of their match at Harare Sports Club, England were 61 runs in arrears and, having spent nearly five hours in broiling heat, with virtually nothing to show for it, striking sorry figures in the field. The only consolation was that the ball had begun to turn and Tufnell and Croft to exert a measure of control.

Then Tufnell claimed the wicket of David Houghton, Croft removed Paul Strang, primarily a leg spinner (with an important part to play today) but with a Test century against Pakistan in his name, and the collapse had begun. In the space of nine overs, six

wickets fell for 17 runs, two of them to Tufnell and four to Croft, whose spell read 6-3-5-4. Earlier in the day, he was top scorer in the England innings of 197 with an unbeaten 80.

At the close, Mashonaland — at one time 258 for three — were thus 279 for nine, a lead of 82. However, with the ball turning sharply by the end of the day, Houghton, the Zimbabwe coach, felt that a target of 200 in the fourth innings would be extremely difficult to reach. He also expressed surprise that the pitch was turn-

ing, as the pitches here are notoriously unresponsive.

Even if England win this match, Zimbabwe have struck some important psychological blows in advance of the Test series, and many of them were inflicted yesterday by the rapid-fire bowler of Houghton, who played a marvellously calculated innings of 110 from 141 balls. "I wanted to put a point across," he said later. "I wanted to tell England that we are not afraid of your bowling." He did that all right.

For three hours he won the battle with each bowler in turn, never allowing them to

settle into their rhythm. He danced down the wicket to drive Mullally for four when the fast bowler began a new spell, and astonishingly repeated the manoeuvre to reverse-sweep Croft. He reached both his half-century and his century with hoisted staves, off Tufnell and Croft respectively. He may be 39 years old, but there are few better batsmen in the world today than Houghton, who averages 48 from 18 Test matches — not bad for a man who began playing Tests at 35, an age when most players are past their best, if not in retirement. If England are to win a Test match here, they must find a way of removing him cheaply.

Further encouragement for Zimbabwe came with the form of Alistair Campbell, their captain, who scored an aggressive 55, and Craig Wishart, who averages 12 from six Test appearances but looked completely unfazed in making 45, at least until the ball started to turn sharply.

Well as their two spinners bowled, England enjoyed more than their share of luck. Grant Flower was leg-before to Tufnell when his front leg was well down the pitch, and Croft later experienced similar joy against Brent. But it was the dismissal of Campbell that caused most controversy, as he apparently got his bat nowhere near the ball that flew — via his pad and Stewart's body — to Hussain at slip. Campbell walked off at funeral pace and not before asking one of the two Indian umpires on what grounds he had been given out.

England were fortunate in another respect too. During the afternoon, the ball went out of shape and was replaced by one that was, apparently, considerably older. However, the first delivery bowled with it turned sharply and, from that point on, Tufnell and Croft took control.

The performances of the England seamen were less encouraging. Gough, who left the field briefly after tea because of further problems with his blistered feet, bowled well early on but his success in discomfiting Carlisle with the short ball led him to pitch too short later, a fault of which Caddick was also guilty.

They had clearly learnt nothing from watching Kirtley, who claimed the last England wicket to complete excellent figures of five for 53. What England must do now is bat well today.



Tufnell looks down on his luck as Houghton races to his century for Mashonaland in Harare yesterday.

Mansell to have test drive for Jordan next week

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NIGEL MANSELL will test drive a Jordan-Peugeot next week in a move that increases the chances of him returning to Formula One next season. Mansell accepted an invitation to drive the car in Barcelona next Wednesday and Thursday after meeting Eddie Jordan, the team owner, at Silverstone yesterday.

Mansell, the former world champion, last drove a Formula One car at the 1995 Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona, ending a two-year comeback with McLaren-Mercedes. Jordan first contacted him after they lost out to TWR Arrows for the signature of Damon Hill for 1997.

Mansell said: "It's 20 years since Eddie and I raced against each other in Formula Ford. We are old friends and I am delighted to have this opportunity to reacquaint myself with a Formula One car." Jordan added: "I've asked Nigel several times over the years to drive one of my cars, but the timing wasn't right. Now it is. There's no commitment from either party beyond this test. Nigel is Britain's most successful Formula One driver of all time and it's an honour for everyone at Jordan Grand Prix to give him this run."

Mansell, 43, has indicated he would be prepared to return to Formula One, or IndyCar racing in the United States, for the right offer. He won the Formula One and IndyCar championships in successive years in 1992-93, and has amassed a total of 31 grand prix victories.

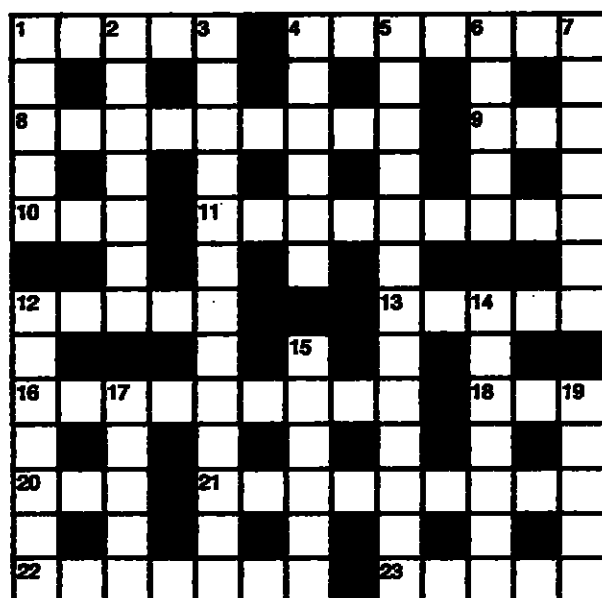
Jordan are looking for an experienced driver to race alongside Ralf Schumacher, the youngest brother of the twice world champion, Michael, who said: "I think Ralf will be really good, with Mansell and nothing could be better for him. Mansell still has a lot of things to give which Ralf can learn from."

However, Schumacher also offered a warning to Mansell. "Once he has been back for one or two races he is going to get bored because his car is not one in which he can win races," he said.

Mansell's ill-fated return in 1995 was delayed, embarrassingly, when the cockpit of his McLaren proved to be too small for him and had to be remodelled.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 957 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



- ACROSS
- Head lift (5)
 - Financially-aided student (7)
 - Substitute for hard, direct word (9)
 - Public service vehicle (3)
 - Nature god cooking vessel (3)
 - Without pause (9)
 - Hostile investment (5)
 - Animal, sounds like husky (5)
 - Personal driver (9)
 - Recline; tell story (3)
 - Mysterious sight in sky (1,1,1)
 - How the unfussy take tea (2,2,5)
 - Irish death-portending spirit (7)
- DOWN
- Despicable person; go silently (5)
 - Delete (7)
 - Five-husband Canterbury pilgrim (3,4,2,4)
 - Pain in side; one made with needle (6)
 - Of half-globe shape (1,3)
 - Star sign, the Balance (5)
 - Badge of circle of ribbon (7)
 - Be overcome, give in (7)
 - Coiled herring fillet (7)
 - Specify meaning of (6)
 - To decorate (5)
 - Blackboard support (5)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 956
ACROSS: 7 Mute 8 Yearling 9 Stalin 10 Martyr 11 Graw 12 Showdown 15 Assassin 17 Full 18 Jalopy 21 Maroon 22 Follow on 23 Gate
DOWN: 1 Hastings 2 Fellow 3 Hypnosis 4 Balm 5 Florid 6 Envy 13 Ornament 14 Wild oats 16 Apollo 17 Forage 19 Agog 20 Yawn

Case dismissed as Brighton manager

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

JIMMY CASE, the Brighton manager, was dismissed yesterday, plunging the bottom club in the Nationwide League deeper into turmoil. It has no ground to call its own, no apparent prospects and, now, no manager. The Goldstone Ground, some of so many crowd protests this season and last, is likely to witness further disturbances in the wake of Case's unexpected departure.

Though Brighton lie nine points adrift at the foot of the third division, Case, 42, the former Liverpool midfielder player, was held largely blameless by the club's supporters. He took on a thankless task when he succeeded Liam Brady in November last year and has had to try to manage against a backdrop of increasing anger aimed at the Brighton board.

Most of it has been directed at Bill Archer, the Brighton chairman, and Derek Bellotti, the chief executive. Fans claim that the pair have not acted in the best interests of the club and that they should allow a consortium headed by Dick Knight, a local businessman, to take over.

At the end of the season Brighton have to leave the Goldstone, which has been sold, and they have announced a ground-sharing agreement with Gillingham, that only inflamed the supporters' annoyance. The move is still subject to approval from the Football Association.

Results have matched the chaotic off-the-pitch proceedings, with Brighton having won only three of their 22 league fixtures this season. They were also knocked out of the FA Cup by Sudbury Town, of the Dr Martens League premier division.

After the 3-2 home defeat by Darlington on Tuesday night and more protests from the fans, Case said: "Because of the climate at the club, we are going steadily downhill. Experience in football has told me that, eventually, things turn in your favour. It's so disappointing but I want to see this through."

Yesterday, Bellotti felt unable to grant him his wish. "We want to record our thanks to Jimmy for his efforts and realise his job has been very difficult," Bellotti said.

George Peckley, 64, the former Leyton Orient and Millwall manager, moves from reserve and youth coach to become caretaker manager.

Pit Men's day out, page 44
Aspirilla the enigma, page 44

Chairman spells it out for Emerson

BY PETER BALL

ON TUESDAY evening the Middlesbrough programme was advertising a new book about the club's rise from the ashes, called *Doom to Boom*. A guide to the present might add the words *and Back*.

A 2-0 defeat by Leicester City meant Middlesbrough had taken three points out of the last 30, a run that leaves them hovering perilously close to the bottom three. As worrying as these results is the continuing turmoil surrounding Emerson, who again failed to return from a trip home on schedule this week.

Yesterday the club finally lost patience with the errant Brazilian, firing him £100,000 and warning that his battle with the club could cost him his career.

"Emerson has been severely disciplined, and unless his conduct improves, further action will follow," Steve Gibson, the Middlesbrough chairman, said. "He is saying here. If he doesn't comply, he will lose everything and it will cost him his career. He is contracted to us until June 2000, which will leave him nearly 29 years of age."

Emerson, or his wife, Andrea, have insisted that they have been unable to settle on Teesside, and moves to Barcelona to join up with Bobby Robson, his manager at Porto, have been widely rumoured. Middlesbrough appeared to put the lid on that one yesterday, Gibson launching an attack on the Spanish club and Emerson's advisers.

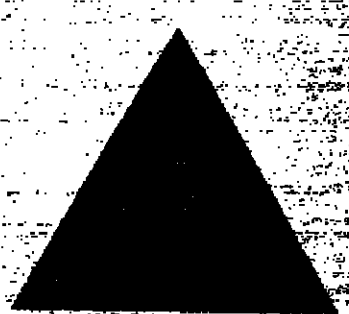
"Barcelona's conduct in this affair requires investigation. We are disappointed by Emerson, but we believe he has been badly advised," Gibson said. "In fact, there has been disgraceful manipulation of the player so that somebody can profit from the sale of Emerson to Barcelona."

"The events have been carefully orchestrated by Emerson's agent, possibly with the permission of Barcelona."

Blackburn Rovers are also finding that European waters can be murky as they continue their search for a manager. Sven-Goran Eriksson, whose contract at Sampdoria expires in the summer, is widely believed to be their first choice, and rumours persisted yesterday that he had visited Blackburn for talks with the chairman, Rob Coar, on Monday. "The situation is ongoing, and we don't comment on candidates, whether to tick them or cross them off," Coar said in enigmatic fashion last night.



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Military elite call for end to nuclear arms

By TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A GLOBAL coalition of retired senior generals and admirals from countries including Britain, America and Russia yesterday issued a joint demand for the complete and irrevocable elimination of the world's nuclear arsenal.

Field Marshal Lord Carver, the former Chief of the Defence Staff, and General Sir Hugh Beach, a member of the UK Security Commission, joined nearly 40 senior officers from America and Russia, including General John Galvin, the former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, and General Aleksandr Lebed in calling for the eventual abolition of nuclear weapons.

In Washington, General Andrew Goodpaster, a former

Supreme Allied Commander and adviser to President Eisenhower, joined General Lee Butler, former Commander-in-Chief of the US Strategic Command, in issuing their own joint statement.

The United States and other nations, they said, should take steps to align nuclear weapons policies to match their diminished role and leading to multilateral disarmament as rapidly as possible.

The ultimate objective of phased reductions should be the complete elimination of nuclear weapons from all nations," they said. "No one can say today whether or when this final goal will prove feasible... but we believe the time for action is now, for the

alternative of inaction could well carry a high price."

The generals added that nuclear weapons were no longer necessary in a post-Cold War world and merely provided an option to respond in kind to any nuclear threat or attack by others, including rogue nations. Other risks included accidents, unauthorised launches, and the theft of weapons or weapons materials by international and domestic terrorist groups. Despite the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, nuclear arms could spread to other nations and cause a war risk.

Conventional capabilities offered a sufficient deterrent and defence against conventional forces and combined

with other defensive measures, could curb the threat of chemical and biological weapons.

Although the former military chiefs are not advocating immediate elimination of all nuclear weapons, they consider that, unless the five official nuclear powers make a substantial gesture in cutting to a minimum their nuclear inventory, countries with the capability to produce nuclear weapons and maverick nations intent on having their own atomic bombs will have no incentive to surrender such ambitions.

The declaration also comes after the agreement on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, another important development in their view that underlines the need to change longstanding nuclear strategy.

Lord Carver has made clear in the past that he supports a total elimination of nuclear arms. He said recently that nuclear weapons had "no utility as a military weapon". He supports the idea of a phased approach that would begin with taking weapon systems off alert and removing warheads from delivery platforms.

General Lebed, who until his recent sacking was President Yeltsin's National Security Adviser, is joined on the list of signatories by General Boris Gromov, who achieved international prominence as the last commander of Russian forces in Afghanistan.



Attacking the nuclear arsenal are, from left, Britain's Field Marshal Lord Carver, General John Galvin of the United States and Russia's General Aleksandr Lebed



Cold War relic: a warhead on a Minuteman missile

Mother Teresa walking

Calcutta: Mother Teresa was described as "fine" by her doctors yesterday after she was able to walk a few steps in her hospital room in Calcutta (Christopher Thomas writes). After a night of respiratory therapy she told doctors to leave her alone so that she could rest. She later took Mass sitting in a chair.

Medical bulletins continue to emphasise that she is not out of danger and that her lung and kidney diseases could present dangerous complications. Her lungs were said last night to be "slightly improved" but her kidney condition was unchanged.



Miss Lucky Girl: Alison Gibson

Japanese fall for Briton in a kimono

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

A CAMBRIDGE student was chosen yesterday as Miss Lucky Girl in Osaka, beating 500 Japanese women competing for the coveted title.

Alison Gibson, 21, triumphed after parading before an all-male jury in a kimono and explaining in fluent Japanese how she would honour Ebisu, the money god. As *Fukumusu*, or Miss Lucky Girl, she will preside over next year's festival for Ebisu, who is worshipped all over Japan but most fervently in Osaka, known as the "city of merchants". Many Japanese believe that praying to Ebisu will bring them riches.

"I'm so excited," said Miss Gibson, the first foreigner to be queen of the festival. "I thought being a traditional Japanese festival they'd have chosen a proper Japanese girl."

The nine judges, all aged over 60, were impressed with her gracious comportment in a kimono and modest way of speaking — qualities they found deplorably absent in Japan's younger generation.

Miss Gibson, a student of Japanese at Robinson College, Cambridge, is spending a year studying the language in Japan. She said the family she stays with entered her in the contest without asking her.

Her mother, who lives in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, was delighted at the news. "The Japanese are portrayed as very xenophobic, but if they allow a Westerner to do so well in something like this, then they can't be all that introverted," Mrs Gibson said.

Yeltsin tries to pacify miners

Moscow: President Yeltsin appointed a special envoy yesterday to mollify striking coalminers, who have not been paid for months and are threatening to bring down the Government if their demands are not met. Mr Yeltsin appointed Vladimir Potanin, the Deputy Prime Minister, after talks with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, at the Barvikha sanatorium near Moscow. (Reuters)

Mandela hails new constitution

Johannesburg: The Constitutional Court certified a reworked final draft of the post-apartheid constitution after approving amendments to sections it had earlier rejected (Inigo Gilmore writes). President Mandela hailed the occasion as a "magnificent piece of history". The amended draft gives provincial parliaments greater say in the passing of legislation.

Guatemala pact ends shooting

Oslo: Nearly seven years after the adversaries in Guatemala's civil war held a first awkward meeting in Oslo, they signed a pact calling a permanent ceasefire in the 36-year-old conflict. More than 140,000 people have died in the war. Talks, in which an amnesty for wartime atrocities has been a key issue, are continuing. (Reuters)

Havel pays car doctors more

Prague: Doctors who performed lung surgery on President Havel this week earned a lower hourly wage for the three-hour operation than the mechanics who work on his official car. The daily *Mlada Fronta Dnes* said the doctors were each paid about £48. The mechanics are paid £30 an hour. (Reuters)

Britain attempts to quell Hong Kong fears over passports

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE British and Hong Kong Governments moved yesterday to avert panic among 135,000 people in this colony with British passports who feared they would not receive consular protection after the 1997 Chinese takeover.

The alarm was sparked by Francis Cornish, the Senior Trade Commissioner and a senior Foreign Office official here, who gave the impression on Tuesday that Britain could not protect holders of passports granted in 1990 to allay fears after the Tiananmen killings, because Peking does not regard them as valid.

"We provide British consular protection to all British nationals except those who are nationals of another country. China has made it clear that they would regard the [British Nationality Selection Scheme] holders as Chinese nationals," Mr Cornish said. He explained that, according to international convention, people with dual nationality living in one of the countries of which they are a citizen cannot claim consular protection from the other.

Distinguished Hong Kong lawyers and the retired Chief Justice Ti Liang Yang immediately suggested that the scheme's passport holders could hold Britain legally liable to recognise their passports as equal to any other, despite Chinese non-recognition. Yesterday, reacting to pressure from the Hong Kong Government, the Foreign Office emphasised: "There is

only one form of British passport... we do not accept that the way in which a British citizen obtained his or her passport would of itself be evidence of dual nationality. We would not regard any claim by the local authorities that a British passport had been obtained under the British Nationality Selection Scheme as itself relevant or acceptable evidence of dual nationality."

Zhang Junsheng, deputy director of the New China News Agency, Peking's de facto embassy in the colony, said of the nationality scheme passport: "It was a British act to create trouble." He was referring to Britain's condemnation of Tiananmen and its desire to reassure some Hong Kong people that they could seek refuge in Britain.

Government House described the BNSS passport yesterday as "just like the one in John Major's pocket".

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First draft for revised EU treaty leaves big issues on back burner

FROM CHARLES BRENNER
IN BRUSSELS

THE first sketch for a revamped Maastricht treaty will be put before the European Union states today but it leaves unbundled some of the biggest bones of contention, making it unlikely that John Major will face a federalist "ambush" at next week's European summit in Dublin.

Britain's isolated stance echoes through the draft, produced after nine months of talks, and the Government this week voiced its unhappiness over the "centrist" ideas. The main affront to British sovereignty is a move,

backed by all but Denmark, to centralise control over external frontiers. Britain is also unhappy about an "employment chapter" to be written into the treaty.

Differences are still so wide among all 15 members that Ireland, outgoing holder of the EU presidency, has attempted no text on key areas involving extending majority voting into areas that are now subject to a veto, plans for variable integration, or remodelling the European Commission and other institutions.

Britain's imminent general election is blamed by the officials of other states for the failure of the inter-governmental conference

(IGC) to engage in real negotiation. As expectations have been trimmed across the Continent, Dutch officials, whose country takes over the presidency next month, are not confident that a new treaty will be finished as planned at June's EU summit in Amsterdam.

While Britain is seen as the main obstacle, the slow pace is also fed by Franco-German tension over the single currency and the Union's future shape, as well as by a dispute between the big and small states over the power balance in a much-enlarged Europe. The Commission fears the big states will succeed in clipping its

wings. Marcelino Oreja, the Commissioner on the IGC, was reported yesterday to have promised to resign if that should happen.

Federal-minded officials are exploring what they see as a looming failure to produce the more integrated, streamlined Union that the IGC is supposed to deliver, so setting the scene for the entry of former Communist bloc states.

"The negotiations haven't even started. This is a real breakdown of the Community," said Elisabeth Guigou, one of two European Parliament representatives on the IGC. "All that will happen in Dublin is the leaders will 'take note' of progress and go home

again. They should just call off all summits until the British have their elections."

The Irish, who have won praise for an energetic presidency, say the draft seeks to distil a consensus on some points but encompasses everyone's views. "It serves as a working basis for further negotiation," said Noel Dorr, the Irish diplomat who has steered the inter-governmental conference since July.

Dublin shares the consensus that big decisions will be made only in a final bout of "horse-trading" by leaders under deadline pressure. That pressure will spring mainly from the more mo-

mentous deadline early in 1998 for the selection of states worthy of monetary union, and by that year's French and German general elections. Few officials believe, however, that any British Labour government would be ready by June to agree on the EU's future.

President Chirac and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, are holding three meetings in the ten days before Dublin to try to smooth over differences and inject life into the summit and the IGC. The only big Franco-German proposal so far — for a system allowing states to integrate faster if they choose — has not only run into British opposition but raised

suspensions across the Union of a German-led hard core. The Irish draft leaves the issue open.

French reluctance to accept German ideas for more pooling of sovereignty is adding to friction between them over preparations for EMU, the overriding EU project and one that lies outside the IGC.

Canberra: Australia said yesterday it would not sign a trade agreement with the EU because the treaty contained a reference to human rights — a standard clause in EU accords — which it said did not belong in a trade pact. (AP)

British odyssey, page 20
Letters, page 21

Troops join Paris safety patrols after train bomb

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

HUNDREDS of police and soldiers armed with machine-guns were patrolling the streets, railway stations and landmarks of Paris yesterday, after Tuesday's bomb attack on a crowded commuter train which killed two people and destroyed any residual belief that France has eradicated the threat of Islamic violence.

Anti-terrorism police said the powerful home-made bomb, a 30lb gas canister packed with black powder and nails to cause maximum carnage, bore all the hallmarks of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most militant of the extremists trying to topple the French-backed military Government in Algeria.

The explosion on the rush-hour RER train in Port Royal station, which injured more than 50 people, was virtually identical in timing and technique to the bombing of Saint Michel station on July 25 last year, two stops away on the same line, in which seven people died and scores were injured. The GIA claimed responsibility for last year's bomb attacks.

"Striking similarities exist between this attack and the attacks of the summer of 1995," Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, said yesterday as 1,800 soldiers were

ordered to reinforce security in the capital and at public buildings across the country. Forensic tests showed that the explosive was an identical mixture of chemicals to that used in the 1995 bombings, while the triggering device was also the same. The gas canister had been wrapped in a plastic bag full of nails, investigators said.

Metal barriers have been erected in front of schools, rubbish bins in crowded areas are being resealed and security has been tightened at borders and airports, officials said.

In March Jean-Louis Debré, France's Interior Minister, declared that the immediate threat from Islamic guerrilla networks in France had been neutralised, after a massive police operation in which more than 100 suspected fundamentalists were arrested.

Despite such optimism, there have been several reports in recent months suggesting that Algerian militants were regrouping for a fresh bombing campaign in France.

Last month the DST, France's counter-espionage agency, gave a warning that an Algerian militant was on his way from Afghanistan to co-ordinate a new wave of bombings against French tar-



Soldiers on patrol at the Gare du Nord in Paris yesterday after Tuesday's bomb on a commuter train in which two people were killed

gets. The suspected cell leader evaded French agents, *Le Monde* reported yesterday.

French officials say that active support networks for Islamic guerrillas exist in Britain, Germany, Belgium and Sweden, and the Foreign Ministry yesterday called on France's European partners to step up their anti-terrorist measures.

Françoise Rudelski, the head of a French support group for terrorism victims, yesterday accused Britain of failing to clamp down on Algerian fundamentalists in the country, who she said provided financing for attacks in France. But British and

French officials insist the two countries have been working closely to combat terrorism.

Rachid Ramda, an Algerian accused of playing a key role in last year's bombings, is being held in London pending his appeal against deportation. On Monday the trial will begin of 34 suspected members of an Islamic ring charged with recruiting, indoctrinating and training young men in France's troubled inner cities to carry out attacks in North Africa.

In recent months the Government had begun to relax the vast and expensive anti-terrorist operation code-named "Vigipirate", insisting

that the groups responsible for last year's bloody campaign had been largely broken up.

One of those who slipped through the French security net, however, was Ali Touchent, alias "Tarek", a GIA militant suspected of recruiting youths in Lyons to carry out attacks whose whereabouts are unknown. Touchent's alleged recruits included Khaled Kelkal, the bomber-shot dead by police in September last year.

The Vigipirate plan was back in force yesterday, and within 24 hours of the blast more than 1,000 additional riot police, paramilitary gendarmes and troops were

poured onto the capital's streets in anticipation of further bombings.

"We must be alert to the possibility that this was not an isolated attack," a government spokesman warned.

President Chirac called a ministerial meeting yesterday to co-ordinate new measures in response to the attack, but for Parisians the sight of reinforced police and military patrols have brought a horrible feeling of déjà vu.

Shares in France's larger department stores fell yesterday, in anticipation that fears of terrorism will bite into pre-Christmas sales.

Investigators say the timing

of Tuesday's blast points to retaliation for the new constitution adopted in Algeria last week, which bans Islamic political parties and grants extensive new powers to President Zeroual.

Islamic extremists accuse France of providing President Zeroual with political and economic support, but the official French response to the referendum on Algeria's new constitution was carefully muted, precisely to minimise potential terrorist retaliation.

Three people injured in Tuesday's attack remained critical yesterday. The body of one of those killed was mutilated by nails, the police said.

Juppé has to shelve defence sell-off

BY BEN MACINTYRE

IN A fresh blow to the French Government, the privatisation of the giant state-owned Thomson consumer electronics and defence group was suspended yesterday after France's independent Privatisation Commission objected to the planned sale of part of the group to a South Korean firm.

On October 16 the Government announced its preference for selling Thomson SA to Lagardère, the private defence-electronics group, over a rival bidder, Alcatel Alsthom, the electronics and engineering firm.

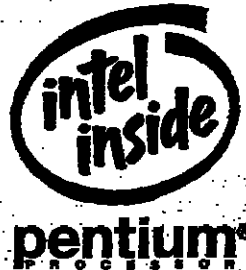
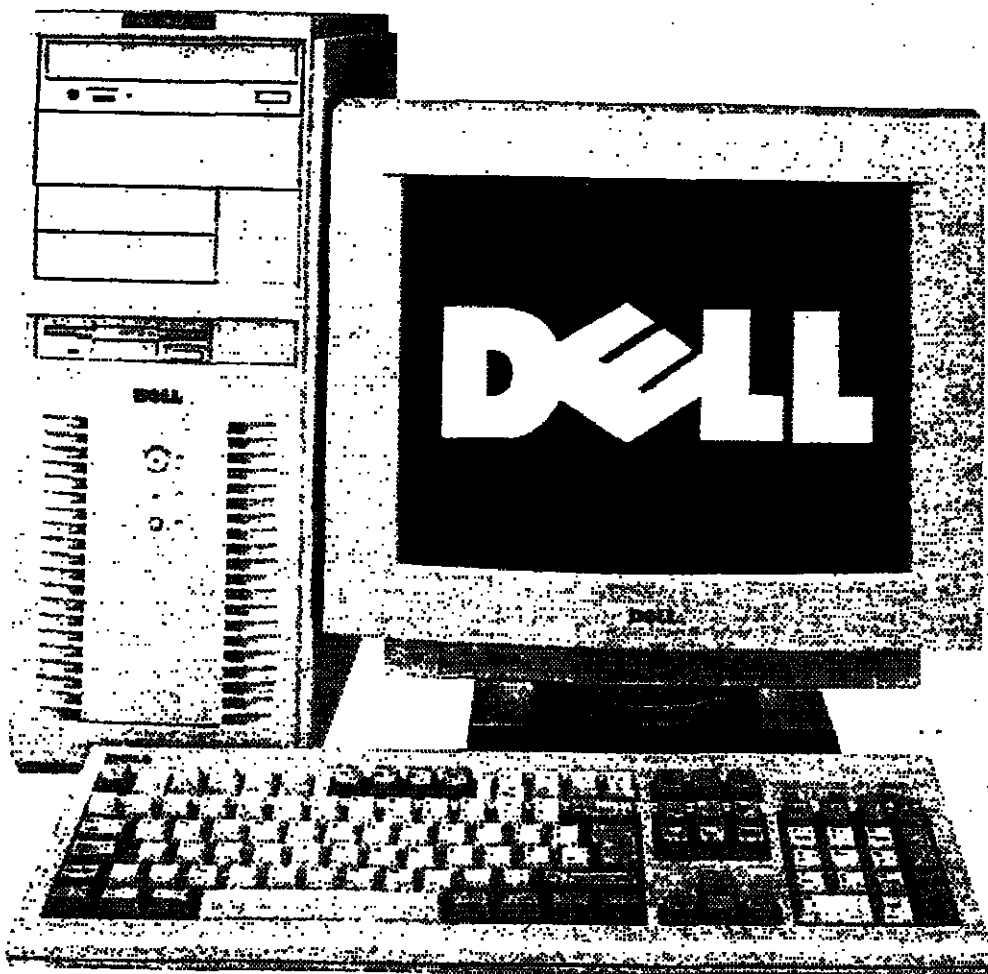
Lagardère's plans to sell on Thomson Multimedia, the consumer electronics division, to Daewoo Electronics of Korea provoked an outcry among workers, industrialists and opposition politicians. After weeks of defending its choice, the Finance Ministry has faced the humiliation of having to halt the sale.

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, yesterday insisted that negotiations on privatising Thomson would be resumed as soon as possible.

The European Commission has already expressed doubts over plans to inject nearly £11 billion (£1.4 billion) of state capital into Thomson, but yesterday the Privatisation Commission "declared itself incapable" of giving a favourable opinion to the Lagardère-Groupe offer, because of the terms of the Daewoo Electronics purchase of Thomson Multimedia.

Tempos, page 28

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Sudeten Germans threaten Kohl over pact with Prague

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

SUDETEN Germans, expelled from the then Czechoslovakia after the Second World War, were determined yesterday to make life difficult for Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, if he goes ahead with a long-delayed friendship treaty with Prague.

The German leader and Vaclav Klaus, the Prime Minister of the new Czech Republic, at a meeting in Lisbon on Tuesday, agreed that the way was now clear to sign a declaration aimed at closing the book on the Second World War. The Czech Republic is the only victim of Nazi occupation not to have come to terms with Germany. Diplomats said yesterday that a final round of talks would be needed but that the agreement would probably be ready for signing by the end of the year.

The Sudeten Germans — who constitute a remarkably powerful element within the Bavarian Christian Social Union — are furious. "The government coalition obviously did not think it necessary to inform the Sudeten Germans of the exact wording of the declaration," Franz Neubauer, chairman of the Sudeten community, said. "The decisions are once again being taken over the heads of those concerned."

Herr Kohl has promised to talk directly to the Sudeten Germans and persuade them of the need to reach an accommodation with Prague. He is likely to have a rough ride. Plainly there will now be trouble between the Chancellor and his Bavarian ally, the CSU.

More than two million ethnic Germans were expelled by the Czechoslovak Government after the war, often forced into cattle trucks. Houses were confiscated and, according to several personal memoirs, German women were raped and beaten. Witnesses say that



women were sometimes nailed to the wheels of carts. The Sudeten Germans urged the German Government to press for a full apology from the Czechs and for the right of Sudeteners to reclaim their lost homes or at least to settle again in the region.

The Czech Government resisted, fearing a flood of German property claims and sensitive in any case to popular resentment about growing German influence in the republic. A commentator for the *Prague Post* recently declared: "The status of the Czech Republic has gone from that of a Soviet satellite to that of a German protectorate."

The terms of the agreement are still secret. It is already clear that Prague will not concede that the expulsions were illegal. It is ready to state public regret about the "excesses" carried out by Czechs in forcing the Germans out; the Germans in turn will apologise for Nazi atrocities.

That means none of the four basic demands of the Sudeteners will have been met: active consultation of the Sudeteners during the Bonn-Prague talks, a full moral condemnation of the expulsions, recognition of the Sudeteners to a right to a homeland and the cancellation of the so-called Benes decrees which deny property rights to ethnic Germans.

The Chancellor has given away more ground than any-

one in the Czech Republic thought possible after almost two years of detailed, sluggish negotiations. In part this is because of his impatience. He has been receiving reports from the German Embassy in Prague about the tarnishing of the German image, and was worried that Czech-German friction would complicate European Union enlargement talks due to begin soon after the end of the inter-governmental conference next summer.

For the Sudeteners, Herr Kohl has surrendered one of the key bargaining points. Prague's determination to be in the first wave of new European Union entrants. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister — from the Bavarian CSU — had hinted that Prague's path to the EU would be more difficult unless it made concessions.

Leading article and Letters, page 21



Key players in the birth of the Church of England: from the left, Henry VIII, Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Pope Clement VII

Carey seeks to speed up closing of Reformation rift

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said yesterday that he was "very pleased" with his dialogue with the Pope, intended to breathe new life into the Anglican-Catholic relationship. However, with only three years to the millennium, progress towards unity was "unsatisfactory" and the two sides had jointly to confront a "threatened collapse" of

moral values. "I feel frustrated that the great promises and hopes that seemed to be in the air a few years ago just do not seem to have borne the fruit that they should have," he said.

Dr Carey, accompanied by his wife, Eileen, yesterday knelt in prayer at the tomb of St Peter on his second day in Rome. Today he meets the Pope for substantive talks on divisive issues, such as the Anglican decision four years ago to ordain women priests, a controversy that has overshadowed

his visit but has yet to be confronted. Tomorrow he goes to Milan to meet Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the city's Archbishop, who is a noted liberal 'seen by many as a future candidate for the papacy.

Yesterday Dr Carey toured the Vatican's Secret Archives and was shown a 1530 letter from Henry VIII to Pope Clement VII asking the Pope to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon so that he could marry Anne Boleyn. The Pope refused and four

years later Henry issued his Act of Supremacy, renouncing Rome and, in effect, establishing the Church of England.

The Archbishop also visited St Peter's crypt where several 20th-century popes lie buried, pausing at the tomb of Paul VI (1963-78). He recalled that talks between Paul VI and the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, had opened the way for the first Anglican-Catholic dialogue since the Reformation.

Swiss turned away 30,000

Berne. More than 30,000 refugees, most of them Jewish, were refused entry to Switzerland during the Second World War, according to archive

material published yesterday. The figures are three times higher than earlier estimates and result from research carried out by the Swiss national archive and the Federal Refugee Office.

The researchers said the expulsions were carried out in the full knowledge of the dangers the refugees faced.

According to the archives, 24,400 people were turned back at the border and a further 14,500 were refused asylum after application from abroad. "Certainly more than 30,000 asylum-seekers were refused entry into Switzerland," one researcher said.

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US mediator on Ireland tipped for top CIA job

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AFTER weeks of deliberating over the choices for his second-term Cabinet, President Clinton appeared set last night to shuffle Anthony Lake, his National Security Adviser and key negotiator on Ireland, to the directorship of the CIA.

White House officials said the President had decided tentatively to move Mr Lake and replace him with Samuel Berger, the deputy at the National Security Council.

In a sign that Hillary Clinton still exerts a strong influence in the decision-making process, Madeleine Albright, US Ambassador to the United Nations, also emerged as the leading candidate to succeed Warren Christopher as Secretary of State. Mrs Clinton has campaigned behind the scenes to get a woman in a senior Cabinet role.

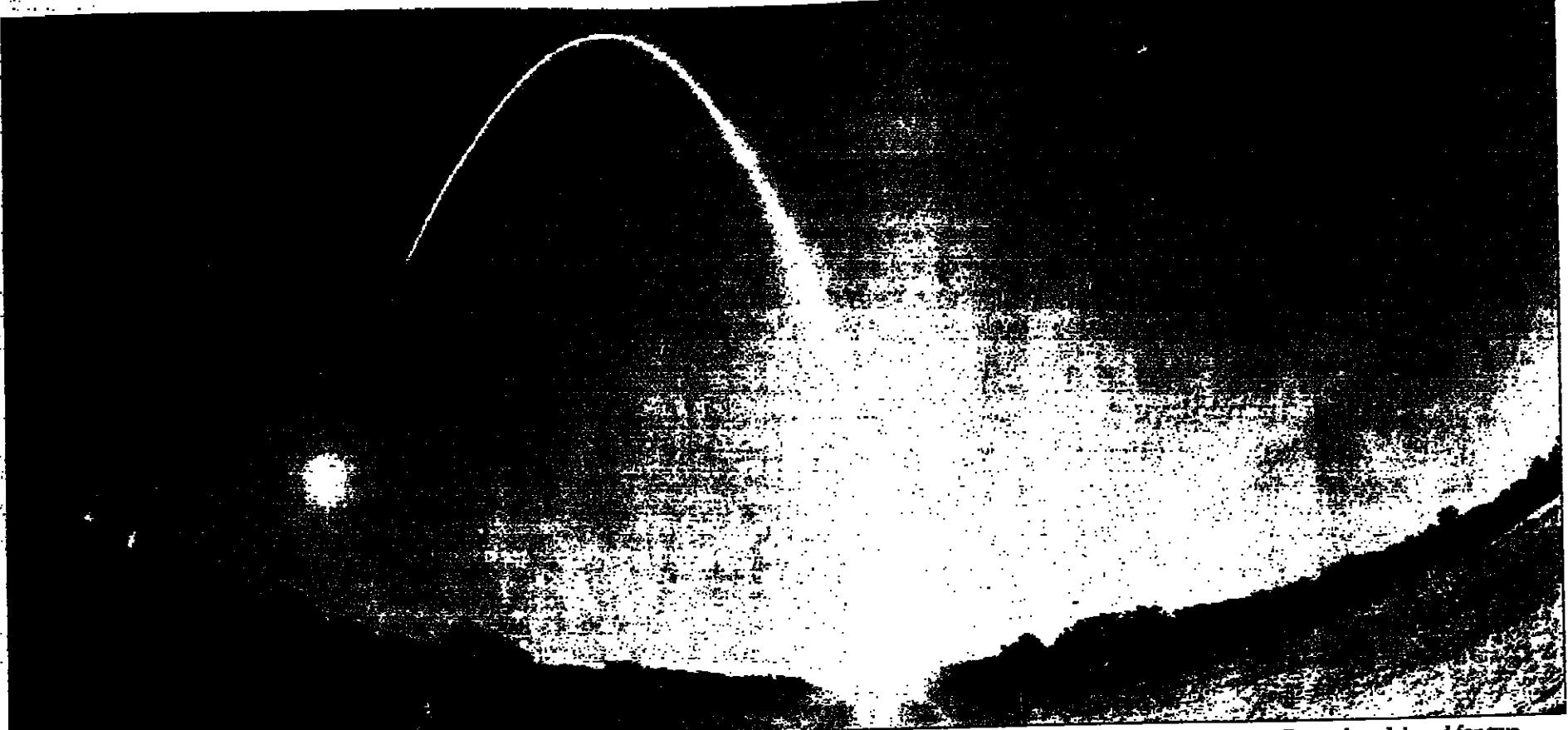
Mr Lake's transfer would have immediate resonance in London, Dublin and Belfast where senior ministers, Unionists and Sinn Féin members have come to view the quiet American as an open door to the President on Irish policy. Nancy Soderberg, his director of Irish affairs, is also rumoured to be seeking a role outside the White House.

Neither Mr Berger nor Ms Albright has a proved track record on Ireland and it remained unclear yesterday whether the Irish portfolio would remain at the NSC or be transferred to the State

Stephanopoulos to teach

THE senior political adviser to President Clinton, George Stephanopoulos, 35, announced yesterday that he was accepting a post as visiting professor of political science at Columbia University (Tom Rhodes writes). He is also

writing about the first Clinton term and is expected to appear regularly on television. Speculation over his future has been rampant since he announced his decision to leave the White House after last month's presidential poll.



A five-minute exposure shows a Delta rocket's path as it left Cape Canaveral in Florida and passed in front of the Moon early yesterday. The rocket, delayed for two days, sent the Mars Pathfinder spacecraft, complete with the first interplanetary rover, on a 310 million-mile journey to the red planet, which it should reach on July 4

Belgrade kept out of Balkan talks

BY PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE United States sent a signal to President Milosevic yesterday that his crackdown of the Serbian opposition was unacceptable by excluding Belgrade from high-level talks in Geneva on economic co-operation in the Balkans.

American officials said the attempts to stifle the opposition, which has led to 17 days of street protests in Belgrade, was blatantly anti-democratic. Belgrade triggered the protests by annulling election results that gave the opposition victory in 15 out of the 18 biggest Serbian towns.

The US action came on the eve of a regional initiative aimed at promoting joint economic projects. The two-day meeting, launched by America and backed by the European Union and Russia, hopes to lay the building blocks for political stability in the Bal-

Lost 16,000 mar Bosnia peace

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 16,000 people are still missing, presumed killed, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the bitterness of the waiting families poses a huge threat to peace in the country until their fate has been determined.

Cornelio Sommaruga, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said yesterday.

As John Major opened a two-day conference on Bosnia at Lancaster House in London, the words of Mr Sommaruga served as a warning to the 56 delegates that the "hatred between the ethnic communities" remains, even though the guns have fallen silent.

Mr Sommaruga is due to address the conference today. In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, however, he said about 13,000 of the missing were known to have been in the hands of the Bosnian Serbs, including 8,000 who disappeared after the occupa-

tion by Serb troops of the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia. Another 1,500 were missing from Muslim hands and 1,000 from Croat hands.

The ICRC president said that, although he feared most of the missing were dead, 100 people had been found alive. The ICRC, which has a mandate under the Dayton peace accords to reunite families where possible, has faced "aggression" and harassment in trying to track down the missing people, Mr Sommaruga said. One of the main problems, he said, was that, even when proof could be provided of someone's death in the form of a document, the family demanded to have the body and blamed the Red Cross for failing to produce the remains.

He issued a warning that whatever economic improvements were made and whatever reconstruction was carried out, there could be no real peace in Bosnia until the fate of the missing 16,000 had been resolved. Fifty years after the Holocaust, families of the victims of Nazi atrocities were

Bonn to deploy combat troops

Bonn: The Government here yesterday authorised the stationing of 3,000 soldiers in Bosnia. Germany's first deployment of full-fledged combat troops abroad since the Second World War. The decision, subject to expected

approval by the Bundestag, was a new step away from German reluctance to participate in international military missions outside Nato territory that was rooted in shame about the crimes committed in the Nazi era. (AP)

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When your baby turns



Dr Thomas Stuttford on difficult deliveries, the doctor who was saved by a transplant and dangers in a cup of coffee

Sir Robert Fellowes has been an army officer, banker and courier, but probably never fancied his chances as an obstetrician. The Duchess of York, in her book, claims that by the very tone of his voice he managed to convert the position in which her baby Eugene was lying in her uterus from head first, to bottom first.

It is just possible that an altercation with the Queen's Private Secretary might have excited the baby and prompted it to turn about, since foetal activity is related to, among other factors, emotion in the mother.

For those without Sir Robert's commanding presence, persuading a baby late in pregnancy to do a somersault in the womb requires great skill. Before the doctor attempts to coax the baby into the head-first position by gently pushing at it through the mother's abdominal wall, he or she must be certain that there is enough fluid in the uterus to allow easy movement of the baby, and that the baby is of normal size.

Naturally, the placenta should be in a suitable position and the mother must have a healthy uterus and a normal blood pressure.

The procedure, known as external version, should be undertaken only when ultrasound is available, and where the baby's heart can be monitored electronically. Everything is laid out so that if the attempt at turning the baby results in damage to the placenta, and distress to the baby, it can be delivered immediately.

In my day as an obstetric houseman, the procedure of external version was not treated with quite so much ceremony as today, when safety standards are higher. Then, as now, about 60 per cent of attempts are successful. It is much easier to achieve external version in the earlier stages of pregnancy but then, all too often, the baby soon reverts to the position in which it is most comfortable. Sir Robert's achievement of changing the position in the last fortnight of pregnancy is more difficult.

By the 38th week of pregnancy, the time at which the Duchess of York had her tricky interview with Sir Robert, the overwhelming majority of babies are in a position to come into the world head-first, and the baby's head is normally well fixed in the mother's pelvis.

As the duchess is a large woman, and presumably has a pelvis to match, it may well be that the head had not yet been fixed. Breech presentations are more common in women whose pelvises are very small, who have any pelvic tumour, or who have too little or too much fluid in the uterus.

Abnormal presentations are also more likely in those women in whom the pelvis is larger than usual because then there is so much room that the baby has too much laxity when making itself comfortable. Most babies lie head-down because this is the position, once they start to grow, in which they sit best.

As a result of Eugene's great leap into the breech



The duchess with Eugene: is it possible that her row with Sir Robert Fellowes made the baby turn a somersault?

position the duchess needed a Caesarean section. This was a wise decision — too vigorous an attempt at version can endanger the child and in any event many doctors feel that all breech babies are better delivered surgically. The advantage and disadvantages of breech delivery, as opposed to Caesarean section, have recently been discussed in the *British Journal of Hospital Medicine*.

The death rate of babies delivered by breech is four times that of babies delivered head first. Not all the deaths are as a result of the delivery — in many cases it is because the baby was premature and was delivered before it had time to settle into the normal position in the womb, and death would have occurred however the child was delivered. As well as suffering head injuries, other babies delivered in the breech

position suffer damage to their neck, and fractures to their collarbones, thighs or arms. The Duchess of York complains that she will carry the scar of her Palace encounter on her abdomen for all time, but better a scar than a damaged baby, and in any case Sir Robert's effortless external version was more likely to be the consequence of the shape of the maternal pelvis than his command

of the English language. If the duchess ever wants to have future children without resorting to surgery there is every chance that she will be able to do so. Tim Coltart, consultant obstetrician at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, published statistics of pregnancies after previous elective Caesarean sections and has found that about 80 per cent of the women have a normal delivery.

Treating epilepsy

FIVE per cent of people in Britain have suffered from epilepsy at some time in their lives. Their families, friends and doctors constantly strive to increase public understanding of the symptoms and point out that in between seizures the majority of sufferers lead normal lives.

In one third of cases, the seizures, which can be symptomatic of many conditions, spontaneously disappear. Other patients are not so fortunate and, despite modern medicine, continue to have fits.

A recent report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* on the surgical treatment of refractory epilepsy has been reviewed by the medical magazine *Monitor*. A new operation, temporal lobectomy, which isolates part of the brain, has proved useful in the treatment of carefully selected patients. Seventy per cent of those who are considered suitable for this

surgery were fit-free five years after the operation. And the number who have been able to return to full-time work has doubled. The world's only university-based academic institute which has been founded to study all aspects of epilepsy is situated in London, at the centre for epilepsy at the Maudsley Hospital and King's College Hospital.

The centre is pioneering the drive to increase public awareness of epilepsy. Many patients are not receiving the help they need.

AFTER a lapse of 30 to 40 years, new drugs are being introduced to treat epilepsy. Some provide much better control over seizures and have fewer side-effects. Increased use of MRI scanning has also demonstrated that in some cases of refractory epilepsy, there are lesions within the brain which could be removed, dramatically reducing the number of fits.

Coffee and cholesterol

THE effect of coffee on the health has intrigued doctors for years but recent research from The Netherlands suggests that the physiological effects of caffeine and other chemicals in coffee depend on the way the coffee has been made. The findings, reported in the *BMJ*, suggest that coffee made in a cafetiere, a jug with a metal plunger, affects the liver cells and may account for minor abnormalities in enzyme levels in

apparently healthy people. Cafetiere coffee also raises the low-density lipoprotein cholesterol that can lead to coronary heart disease.

The same copy of the *BMJ* also reported studies from St George's Hospital, London, which investigated the effect of coffee drinking among smokers. In non-smoking pregnant women coffee has no effect on the baby's birth weight, but in those who both smoke and take coffee the two addictions have a synergistic action. The authors suggest that women smokers should be advised to give up coffee as well as tobacco while pregnant.

Diagnosing Alzheimer's

THE diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease can be made with certainty only after death, but now doctors in Canada may have found a biochemical test which will distinguish it from other forms of senile dementia.

They have been measuring the level of an iron-binding protein, known as P-97, in the blood of patients with Alzheimer's and comparing the result with healthy contemporaries. Levels of P-97 in patients with Alzheimer's were six times higher than in people who had retained their cognitive function. The changes could be detected two

years before a patient started to show signs of dementia. A spokeswoman for Research into Ageing, a charity which investigates the disease, said: "Although this work is only in its early stages, the initial results are very encouraging. It may well be possible to obtain a more accurate diagnosis earlier in cases of dementia."

Over the past ten years there has been a tendency to label all cases in which there has been confusion in the elderly as Alzheimer's disease. This has resulted in many patients not having the treatment needed for curable conditions.

A dose of her own medicine

In a teaching hospital some patients are understandably shy about being the subject of a teaching round. "How would you like it, doctor?" is more than just an occasional question. Professor Julia Polak can tell them. There are few more prestigious teaching sessions than the grand round at the Royal Post Graduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital, London, and at one of them Professor Polak was both the teacher and patient.

Doctor Celia Oakley, the cardiologist, Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub and Professor Polak taught together on primary pulmonary hypertension and heart and lung transplantation using Professor Polak's case as the example. Professor Polak, who has followed her own treatment with understandable interest, prepared the microscopic slides of her own lungs so that students and colleagues could understand why she nearly died.

Pulmonary hypertension is a condition in which the blood pressure in the arteries leading to the lungs is abnormally high. It is easy to take the blood pressure in the peripheral arteries where a cuff can be put around the arm and the pressure measured on a sphygmomanometer. However, when the pulmonary arteries are involved the condition has to be diagnosed as a result of considering the patient's symptoms.

Pulmonary hypertension results in right-sided heart strain, and eventually failure. The condition may be secondary to chronic bronchitis, congenital heart disease, pulmonary fibrosis or late consequence of pulmonary embolism.

In many cases the cause is not known and it is described as primary pulmonary hypertension.

Professor Polak had asthma in younger life. About 23 years ago, she took Ponderax, the slimming pill, for approximately three months. Slimming pills of this group occasionally cause pulmonary hypertension and it is possible that this weight-losing exercise was the start of her troubles.

Whatever the cause, Professor Polak noticed that she was becoming more easily tired



Fighting fit: Professor Polak, centre, and Yacoub, right, at Harefield Hospital's annual run

and increasingly breathless but assumed that this was a result of ageing.

The gradual downhill progress in her health started to accelerate until the breathlessness became so severe that she found it difficult to continue her work.

Finally Professor Polak telephoned one of her colleagues and said that she was dying, and doubted whether she would be able to visit the laboratory again. Once the alarm had been raised, a diagnosis of right-sided heart failure, secondary to pulmo-

nary hypertension, was soon made. This was the diagnosis that Professor Polak had suspected. The heart failure was so well developed that when she lay back on her pillows the veins in her neck were engorged up to seven centimetres above the collarbone. Her colleagues explained that they had only ever viewed her across a conference table, or with a patient, and had never seen her lying on a bed.

Her lungs and heart were so badly damaged that Professor Yacoub and Dr Oakley decided that the only possible

treatment was a heart and lung transplant. A year later Professor Polak is back at work doing 20 hours a day and has raised nearly half a million pounds for the Julia Polak Lung Transplant Research Fund.

Professor Polak says she hasn't felt so well for 20 years and can never remember having more energy. She has no side-effects from the immunosuppressant drug FK506, known as Prograf Tacrolimus, which she took after she developed adverse symptoms while having Cyclosporin.

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Message received ...

The solution to intimacy without risk is an answerphone, Giles Coren discovers

Most of us do not very often have to tell 26-year-old Dominican-born fitness trainers that we are taking our chiselled bones and Hollywood millions and marrying them to somebody else. But if we did, we would almost certainly do it on an answering machine.

When Daniel Day-Lewis chucked Isabelle Adjani, the mother of his child, he did it by fax. When he got married to one Rebecca Miller, he phoned Ms Adjani to tell her, and left a message on the answering machine, which omitted the lucky lady's name. Ms Adjani assumed, reasonably enough, that he was marrying the woman with whom he lived, Deya Pichardo, said Dominican fitness instructor. Her phone call to congratulate Ms Pichardo on her nuptials fell on surprised ears — this being the first she had heard of it.

Wobblers were thrown. Finally, Mr Day-Lewis decided to come clean and admitted everything — that he had got married, and had been thoughtless, and was terribly sorry — to her answering machine.

These may sound like the typical frolics of a Hollywood love rat. And yet there is one element that makes the players sound rather more like ourselves: the answering machines.

For since their emergence in the late 1970s, when only the occasional technophile had his telephone proudly answered by an automated American accent pre-recorded in Taiwan, we have developed from the days when people apologised for not being in to where everyone has one, and leaves it on whether they are there or not.

Answering machines have, in fact, replaced conversation. In Britain, we have never liked talking to each other, anyway. And the intimacy without risk that the answerphone offers is irresistible. It is the only way we can bring ourselves to chastise tradesmen, end relationships, call in sick, ask for an overdraft, or apologise.

Once it was the study of a person's letters that could offer a glimpse into the minutiae of their lives, but with the death of writing it is only by listening to a person's answerphone messages that you can get to their soul.

To see how such a project might fare I listened in on five answerphones, belonging to randomly selected members of the public, who explained their encrypted meaning.

Will Laffan, 38, plumber. Greeting: Hello. Will and his wrench are out on the town, where the floors are wet and



Daniel Day-Lewis left a message for his lover, Deya Pichardo, right, on their answerphone telling her he had married the actress Rebecca Miller



the water's brown. Leave a message or call me on — mobile number.

Message: "Hello, Popeye Pizza here. We're out of pineapple, do you want to change your order?" That's left over from last night. I was in the lav when they rang and didn't hear the machine. So they put green pepper on instead, and I hate green pepper. I'll have to add that to the message, so they know for next time.

Message: "Will! It's Adrian Cheng. That grunting you did on my bath has shrunk, and the gaps have come back, the woman downstairs is shouting at me again. Can you get over tonight?" I've been doing work for this bloke for ages, he's a real grumbler. I'll go round there and find that there's a hairline crack and he'll be surprised when I tell him for 25 quid.

Message: "Will, we really ought to talk. It's about last night. I know you think I overreacted, but you have to admit you were horrible. I

don't have to move in tomorrow. I just think... I just think that it's something we have to deal with. Oh, I can't put it all on the answerphone, just phone me when you get in. That was my girlfriend. It's obvious what that was about, isn't it? I'm glad I've got the machine. I couldn't have coped with that one.

Mat Sinclair, 20. Student in Oxford, sharing house with Christian, Mark, and Jules.

Greeting: Hello, I'm afraid the answerphone isn't in right now. This is the toaster speaking, leave a message after the tone and I'll do my best to remember it.

Message: "Jules? Ju-les. Are you awake? Get up, get up, get up. I guess you're asleep. I'll try later." Apart from the sitting room, Jules's room is the only one with a phone, so early-morning messages are directed at him. This is from his girlfriend, Mia.

Message: "Hi, Mum. I got your message. But I'm working late, I couldn't make it before nine. Call if that's any use." That's our eldest, Mo. She lives about a mile away and sometimes helps out.

Message: "I hope you get this in time. It's me. Babysitting won't be a problem as long as Mo gets here by nine. I have to be away by nine-thirty. Okay, bye." My other daughter, Joannah. My wife must have

been phoning them all day, but God knows where she is. We're supposed to be going to the theatre — it is always like this. I phone up my answering machine from work to try and find out where my family is, and there are incomprehensible messages that tell me nothing.

Message: "Ho, ho, ho. Very funny. It's mum here. I've got the cream from Dr Roland. I'll post it tomorrow. Love you." Jules's mother. She is always indiscreet. No idea what the cream is for, I can't see that Jules is ever awake long enough to get ill.

Leslie Burke, 51, civil engineer, wife called Jill. Two sons aged 7 and 16. Daughters aged 19 and 21.

Greeting: I am afraid this is the answering machine, please leave a message after the long tone, and one of us will call you back as soon as we can.

Message: "Mrs Burke? It's Gracia here. I cannot come tonight. I have a cold. Hope that's okay." That's the baby-sitter. She's a nice girl but she always cancels on the day.

Message: "Hi, Mum. I got your message. But I'm working late, I couldn't make it before nine. Call if that's any use." That's our eldest, Mo. She lives about a mile away and sometimes helps out.

Message: "I hope you get this in time. It's me. Babysitting won't be a problem as long as Mo gets here by nine. I have to be away by nine-thirty. Okay, bye." My other daughter, Joannah. My wife must have

The Times Christmas Appeal

The peril facing Africa's wildlife

THE poacher steadied his aim as the black rhino stumbled into the clearing and then emptied the ammunition clip from his AK47 into the animal. From 30ft he could hardly miss his prey, which was intent only in steering her calf to safety.

As the rhino buckled, two more poachers threw ropes around her back legs and the sound of a chainsaw coughing into life drowned the sound of the animal's death throes. Within minutes the poachers had slaughtered a beast far heavier and longer than their Land Rover to steal 18in of horn. The poachers then turned their attention to the calf, using the chain saw again to slice off crudely its pathetic horn.

Sue Fisher, head of conservation at the charity Tusk Force, says: "Rhino horn is so valuable that the poachers slice away the face so they can get every fraction. Ounce for ounce, rhino horn is worth more on the black market of some Far East countries than cocaine or gold."

At the end of the Eighties, investigators reported that rhino horn was fetching £40 a kg. Prices are said to have risen steadily since.

There remains an insatiable demand in the Far East for powdered horn, which is erroneously believed to be an aphrodisiac, and for use in traditional medicines.

Ms Fisher says: "Rhino horn, in substantial doses, reduces fever but then so can taking an aspirin. Other claims to its efficacy remain unproven. We are seeing entire species hunted to the brink of extinction because of superstition and greed and there is not much time left if we are to save them."

The rhino population has been reduced to fewer than 11,000 since the turn of the century when more than 100,000 existed. The elephant has suffered as parlous a loss. Half the elephant population of 1.2 million was killed between 1970 and 1989 to serve the ivory market, and although this trade has been outlawed, in countries where law enforcement is weakest there remain organised gangs of poachers.

The decimation of the elephant first galvanised Tusk Force into action in 1989, when it alerted governments and helped to establish teams of armed rangers to combat poachers in a dangerous and costly frontline war in the African bush. Since the banning of the international ivory trade in 1989 and the increase in public awareness, demand for ivory has lessened, prices have plummeted and elephant populations have stabilised.

The threat of gun battles does deter poachers but Tusk Force recognises that to stop the trade there is an urgent requirement to address consumers and change attitudes.

Ian Redmond, a biologist and Tusk Force's conservation adviser, notes: "The elephant and the rhino play an



Elephants are still in danger

important role in the ecology of their habitats. Those habitats will not survive without them."

More funds are being earmarked to educating schoolchildren here and abroad so that these creatures and their habitats will have the chance to exist in more than just their picture books.

Above all, Tusk Force wants to take its message of survival to the communities whose demand for rhino horns, tiger bones, bear paws and ivory tusks keeps the unscrupulous in business.

● Credit card donations to Tusk Force can be made on 0345 414616. Cheques should be sent to Tusk Force, Ravenscourt House, 123 Askew Road, London W12 9AU.

DANIEL MCGRORY

The Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal, page 2

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2004: a British odyssey leaves the EU behind

Robert Schuettinger offers a rosier vision of our island story than Sir Roy Denman's scenario last week

A briefing note for the re-elected American President Jack Kemp in 2004.

Mr President: you asked me for a memorandum on the European Union and the United Kingdom before your meeting with Prime Minister Michael Portillo next month. As you know, the ill-fated European monetary union went ahead (against the advice of many of Europe's well-wishers, including yourself) in 1999 while Al Gore was still President. Only five nations qualified for membership even after the criteria were fudged so as to be almost meaningless. Britain stuck to its negotiated opt-out.

Portillo's hand was strengthened by the British referendum of 1996 which decisively rejected a single currency and a federal Europe. The remaining nations also refused to join the EMU — wisely, as it turned out.

Only a few months after the first (and last) wave established the EMU, the weakening French economy forced the new European Central Bank in Frankfurt to raise interest rates sharply across the EMU member states. Unemployment rose to 19 per cent in France, 16 per cent in the Benelux nations and 13 per cent in Germany. The ensuing strikes and armed conflicts (Corsica declared its independence) led to a bloodless military coup in France which was seen as the only alternative to anarchy.

A fairly sensible general proclaimed the Sixth Republic (with the support of the trade unions), and has been ruling by decree for four years. The new French Government, however, withdrew from the EMU, the European Union, Nato and the United Nations. France's permanent seat on the Security Council was given to the European Union; their ambassador abstains on most issues, since the EU has never been able to agree on a common foreign policy.

The costs of the EMU, added to the huge subsidies provided to both the old German Democratic Republic and the economically declining members of the EU, proved too much for the recently united Germany. Ironically enough, the EU has long encouraged "regionalism" as a way of weakening the sovereign states of Europe. The larger Länder of Germany and the regions of Italy moved to assert themselves as the only way (as they saw it) to survive. Italy peacefully divided into three nations which were admitted to the EU in 2000 and most observers believe a similar reversion to mid-19th century conditions will soon occur in Germany.

Needless to say, any concerns about German "domination" of Europe (whether founded or not) are now redundant. However, the resulting disunity at the heart of Europe creates new dangers akin to the many problems after the break-up of the Soviet Union of Yugoslavia and of the Warsaw Pact.

The obvious unworkability of a federal union only pushed the remaining Europeans into

overdrive. The Treaty of Aachen in 2001 created an Executive President with powers similar to those of the President of the French Fifth Republic. The European Parliament, representing the remaining member nations, elected as President a former agriculture minister of Luxembourg, and as Vice-President Kenneth Clarke, a citizen of a non-member nation.

Naturally, the competitiveness of the transformed European Union sank to new lows. Average unemployment in the remaining member states rose to the 30 per cent mark. Britain had been receiving 40 per cent of all inward investment in the old EU. In 2000, when Portillo, supported by a majority of the major parties, took Britain out of the EU entirely, inward investment rose to a 70 per cent share of the old EU. As a diplomatic goodwill gesture towards its former "partners", the UK remained a member of Efta.

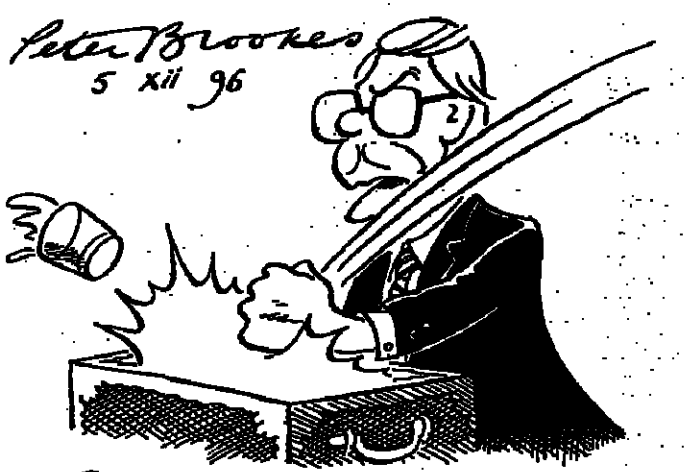
Britain's enterprise culture (many fewer regulations and more flexible labour markets) and the English language (important to North American and Asian investors) were major factors in this economic boom; the overriding reason, however, was that Britain, since 2000, has been the only stable and reliable nation in Europe. This year Britain has the highest average wages and income per capita in all of Europe; in the past four years the UK economy has created almost as many jobs, proportionally, as the United States.

Norway never joined the EU and has long been prosperous. After Britain left, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Austria quickly followed. In 2001 Portillo negotiated Britain's entry into the North American Free Trade Association (now the North Atlantic Free Trade Association). Portillo then successfully pressed for the admission of the four Scandinavian nations.

In 2002 Portillo and his Foreign Minister, Malcolm Rifkind, visited Peking just after the Chinese Revolution established the first democratic Government in Chinese history. Portillo and Rifkind, in round-the-clock meetings with representatives of the Asian "tigers" and Japan, created the Asian Free Trade Area, with Britain as the only European member. Britain's standing in world affairs has never been higher. It seems undeniable that it is the most stable and reliable of all our major allies on all continents.

I believe you should take very seriously what the PM will say. His main objective is to work out a Portillo plan whereby both major trading blocs (and perhaps Russia) will work to prevent the collapse of the present EU. It is clearly in all our interests to see a stable and prosperous Europe. We shall have to work out with the British some strict conditions. They will be helpful intermediaries between North America, Asia and the struggling EU.

The author was Assistant Director for National Security Affairs under President Reagan in 1980-81 and had earlier worked for Congressman Jack Kemp.



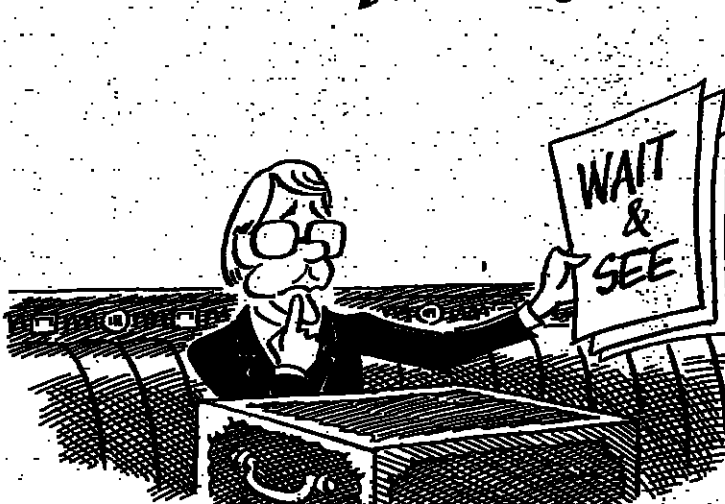
On the single currency...



...committed to being...



...we are unequivocally...



...equivocal.

Why Scott had to go

Kensington and Chelsea Tories did not reject a lightweight, but a defender of Rab Butler's liberal Conservatism

I have known Nicholas Scott for some 35 years. I first met him about the time of my marriage. My father-in-law was the Mayor of St Pancras in 1962; we held the reception in the splendid St Pancras Town Hall, with its flight of marble stairs and old associations with George Bernard Shaw. Nick came because he had become a friend of my wife's family as a fellow member of the old Holborn and St Pancras Council.

The following year he was a successful national chairman of the Young Conservatives. Both he and I were supporters of Rab Butler in the 1963 leadership contest. I think he found my rejection of the Alec Douglas-Home leadership too vehement for his taste. He always had a feeling for party unity, as he does now.

Undoubtedly Nick has had bad luck in politics and life only a part of that has been in any way his fault. His star was in the ascendant in 1970 when he was appointed parliamentary private secretary to Iain Macleod, a powerful figure who planned to be a reforming Chancellor. Within a few weeks Iain had died. Later Ted Heath brought Nick into his Government. Within a few weeks Heath was no longer Prime Minister.

A year later there was a new leader, Margaret Thatcher, who saw Nick Scott as on the wrong wing of her party. She found him a useful and resilient minister, particularly in Northern Ireland, but kept him firmly out of the Cabinet. Her 11 years in office eclipsed the prospects of his career. Nevertheless, Nick Scott did have the potential to be a major politician — *Time* magazine was right about that. He has been a well-liked man in public life. He has the gift of political warmth, rather like the good Irish politicians of the United States. He was an influential figure among his contemporaries, an influence symbolised by the choice of Nick's *Diner* as the name for the club which brought together the younger Tory MPs of the Centre Left.

Nick was always himself a loyalist, loyal to Rab Butler, loyal to Iain Macleod, who were the two men in politics he most admired, but also loyal to his party leaders, Alec Douglas-Home, Ted Heath, the unsympathetic Margaret Thatcher and the much more sympathetic John Major. With some difference of circumstances, he could easily have had a much more successful career;

for instance, if Iain Macleod had lived, Nick might well have been in a Macleod Cabinet in the 1970s, and might have ended his career as a Willie Whitelaw figure, genial, supportive, shrewd, close to the sources of power, perhaps a liberal Home Secretary. If Heath had won in 1974, and he nearly did, Nick's career would also have prospered.

At any rate, I have always liked him, though our political views have drifted quite far apart. Nick was never convinced by the monetarist revolution of the 1970s, by the Thatcherite revolution, nor by the opposition to Maastricht. I found myself convinced by all three; indeed I was against Maastricht well before the treaty was signed. The significance of Nick's rejection by his constituency can only be understood if one recognises that he is a significant political figure, and could have been a greater force in the Conservative Party than he ever actually was. Kensington and Chelsea have not rejected a lightweight, as the closeness of all the votes has shown. Nick has still had his fans, and justifiably so.

Part of the constituency argument was about the personal issues which lay on the surface. I am surprised that anyone can spend 30 years in the House of Commons, let alone a few years in Northern Ireland, without acquiring some tendency to fall over from time to time. It is, in the risk of taking excessive refreshment, a most terrible place. If one listens to the debates, one is soon driven out again by the combinatoric sophistries of second-rate minds. The bars are always open; there are endless hours of waiting, gossiping obsessively about who may be the next Prime Minister, and exchanging rounds of drinks. The parliamentary life is as conducive to excessive liquor as that of a barman on a cruise liner.

There was also the delicate problem of reconciling Kensington with Chelsea after the constituencies

merged. In my mother's youth, in the Irish American world of the 1890s, the great division came between the lace curtain and the saloon bar Irish; my mother's family were distinctly lace curtain, and disapproved of the capers of the saloon keepers. In the same way Kensington is lace curtain and Chelsea is distinctly saloon bar. "With a twinkle in me eye".

Once, long before Nick Scott's time, I was shortlisted for the Conservative nomination for Chelsea and went down to see them. They then seemed to me to be charming afternoon people, the sort one might expect to drink brandy and soda on a trip to the Derby in a vintage Rolls-Royce. Kensington is much more severe. Someone once wrote that I was the only person who wore double-breasted pyjamas; they wear black tie with their pyjamas in Kensington. I doubt whether Nick was ever the ideal person to mediate the culture clash of the boroughs.

Yet the real point of division was not the Kensington/Chelsea divide, but a much more important difference inside the Conservative Party. Nick Scott's Conservatism was new when I first met him, but is now old. He is the moderate, liberal, consensus Conservatism of the 1960s; it is like that of Kenneth Clarke, it is a rather gentler version of the politics of Michael Heseltine. Nick is Europeanist in the style of the early 1970s, though he has always been far more of a party loyalist than Ted Heath has been for 20 years. I can well understand Nick's politics since I shared many of these attitudes in the 1960s, and I still find attractive the humanity which inspires his group.

The difference lies between those Conservatives who internalised the experience of the Thatcher years and those who have ultimately rejected it, either on pro-European grounds (like Geoffrey Howe, or on more general grounds like Nick Scott. Monday night's vote rejected the liberal Con-

William Rees-Mogg

Plagues and public confidence

Scots health officers failed to stop a food poisoning panic, says Magnus Linklater

As the Great Plague swept London in the summer of 1665, wild rumours abounded. Samuel Pepys decided he had better not wear his new perwig to go with his coloured silk suit because he had bought it in Westminster, where the disease was now rife. He even wondered whether the plague would put an end to the fashion for powdered wigs, because everyone was convinced that infected human hair was being used to make them.

There is a whiff of that kind of panic reaction since the outbreak of *E. coli* poisoning in Scotland and of meningitis in Wales. The immediate instinct of some students at Cardiff was to quit the campus, putting as much distance as possible between them and the seat of the infection. The inevitable result was to spread the fear. In Scotland, things are worse. A series of shambolic decisions, or non-decisions, by local health boards has meant that uncertainty has bred faster than the bacterium itself.

Of course, a sense of proportion is important: the Plague of London killed 60,000 people in the city out of a population of 450,000. So far seven people have died in Scotland; two in Wales. But the irony is that while we know more about bacteria than the 17th century ever dreamt of, we are still caught unawares when they decide to strike. One reason is the insidious way in which new strains infiltrate our best defences.

Meningitis group C has to be treated swiftly, yet is difficult to diagnose. *E. coli* 1057 has, over the past decade, mutated into a virulent form which breeds faster than its more harmless relatives. Professor Hugh Pennington, who is heading the inquiry into the *E. coli* outbreak in Lanarkshire, admitted on Radio Scotland that no one quite knew why.

But it is not ignorance which has allowed the infection to spread, it is a failure of the system set up to combat it. We pay around £200 million a year for a variety of institutions and services aimed at making food safe: we have high-powered central monitoring systems like the Centre for Infection and Environmental Health in Scotland or the Public Health Laboratory Services in England, which employs 3,000 people including scientists, microbiologists and epidemiologists. But at the grass roots, where it counts, there is a all too often a lack of management skills and organisation.

There is one school of thought which says that we are all over-reacting — one small outbreak, not many affected, was the argument put last week by the writer A.N. Wilson, who said that only "a handful" of Scots had died, and complained that James Naughtie on the *Today* programme "spoke as if it was a matter of national interest that a few of his fellow-countrymen had the runs".

Not surprisingly, that crass remark caused great offence. It also ignored the serious implications of what has happened. The fast five-day delay in revealing to the public the names of outlets to which contaminated meat had been sent has yet to be properly explained; now it emerges that the butcher at the centre of the scare was allowed to carry on supplying cooked meats to customers after his premises had been identified as the source of contaminated food.

Police have been called in, not just to see whether criminal proceedings are needed, but because they alone have access to the Home Office computer system which is needed to follow up the whereabouts of newly identified patients, explore their eating habits, and find out with whom they have been in contact.

Most suspicion has fallen inevitably on the butcher, John Barr, of Wishaw, where the contamination is supposed to have taken place. But the real failure lies with local authorities, and ultimately the Scottish Office. In any place where raw meat, which carries the bacterium, and cooked meat which should kill it, exist together, there are clear rules which no butcher knowingly breaks. Health officers are there to ensure that this happens, but also to control the effects of any contamination. Here they failed. They failed to contain the outbreak once it was identified, and yet failed to reassure the public once it had spread.

Why should this be so in a country which once led Europe in standards of public health? The answer is that, despite all the reassurances offered by the Scottish Office, public health has dropped down the list of spending priorities. That celebrated figure, the Medical Officer of Health, who inspired such awe in countless episodes of *Dr Finlay's Casebook*, no longer exists.

Instead, we have a system of environmental health officers and consultants, operating with small staffs, inadequate back-up, and an absence of managerial skills. They have no clear status, mandate or hierarchy. In those circumstances the present outbreak was a disaster waiting to happen.

Mr Barr, whose business has now been destroyed, may prove to be as much a victim of the system as those who have been stricken. We must wait to see where the inquiry points the finger of blame. I think I already know the answer.

Tight spot

AN ANSWER at last to the eternal question of what judges wear under their robes: ladies' stockings. The news comes from one of the highest-ranking judges in Britain, Mr Justice Hooper, of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court.

In a documentary, *The Verdict*, to be broadcast on BBC2 next week, Mr Justice Hooper talks of the problems of tights: "When I was first appointed as a silk and

had to be sworn in, I bought a pair of ladies' tights, and I think that most judges feel that is the only way because people don't make silk stockings any longer."

He then hit upon "high highs", stockings with an elasticated top around the thigh to help them to stay up. "I do prefer those to tights, which I find very uncomfortable. Whether it's my anatomy or the male anatomy I leave for others to decide, but tights seem to sort of gradually slip down."

Judge's clerk Tim Nute confirms the judicial penchant for stockings rather than tights: "The judges have found that these were less restrictive," he explains, adding that he shops at Debenhams' ladies departments on behalf of his bosses. Ede & Ravenscroft, supplier of legal robes, takes a dim view of stockings: "We sell heavy black nylon tights, the kind generally worn by ballet dancers. They cover a multitude of sins," a spokesman said.

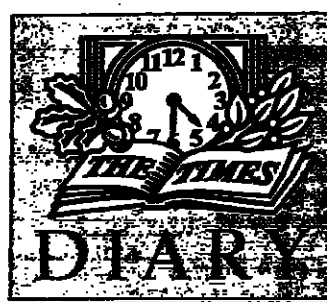
For guidance, I turned to Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, firmly in the stocking camp: "I used to wear two pairs of stockings on each leg," he says. "A cotton pair underneath and a silk pair on top.

The cotton pair stops a man's hairs from showing through."

● Yet more indignity is to befall the Royal Family at the hands of dauber André Durand, whose most recent contribution to fine art was a picture of Diana, Princess of Wales, dressed as a clown in a pizza parlour. His energies are now devoted to the First Kill, Prince William's fatal encounter with a Highland stag. "An extraordinary feat for one so young," Durand whines. "I was moved to record it for posterity."



Any chance of getting at that water on the Moon?



The Prince will be dressed in flowing red robes, his face smeared in the stag's spent blood and Balmoral Castle will nestle sweetly in the snow-capped peaks behind.

Cashing in

MICHAEL HESLITINE faces a revolt on Europe in his Henley constituency. Businessmen affiliated to the local Conservative Association recently invited Bill Cash, pin-striped Euro-basher and MP for Stafford, to give a talk on Maastricht etc. Cash was cheered to the rafters.

"They showed enthusiastic approval," concedes the pinstripe modestly. "I've spoken to four constituencies so far, none of them wildly Euro-sceptic and only one person out of six hundred has so far disagreed with me." Back at the

Henley association, the news was greeted with astonishment. "It's the first we've heard of this," panicked an official, loyal to our man-to-haired hero.

Hairy scary

THE SECRET of President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire's hair-dressing habits are laid bare. The ailing leader has been flying in his stylist from New York every fortnight for a trim at his palace in the South of France. Perhaps only Bill Clinton, who once closed down Los Angeles airport for an emergency blow-dry on Air Force One while the plane remained on the runway, takes presidential hair so seriously.

Mobutu's concern for his coiffure is not merely a question of vanity, however. National security is at stake — Mobutu's courtiers fear that a Zairean barber would use the clippings for *muti*, or African witch-doctory.

Going solo

MOVING problems are making life uncomfortable for George Stephanopoulos, senior adviser to President Clinton, who is leaving for a political teaching post at Columbia University. The high-rise



George on the move

prices of Manhattan are beyond his reach. Gorgeous George, the diminutive but highly eligible former Rhodes scholar who complained recently in *Vanity Fair* of being in debt, is struggling to sell his expensive apartment near Washington's Dupont Circle.

The duplex, at the centre of controversy over his personal funds, is on the market with no takers for a handsome \$1.2 million (about £750,000). To add to his woes, Wendy Smith, his White House girlfriend, has apparently abandoned plans of joining him in New York.

P.H.S.



Hooper: stocking man



TEST OF TIME

A return to rigorous examinations is demonstrably overdue

Traditionalists have long suspected that the main reason for the rising pass rates in GCSE and A level is one that no parent, and no responsible teacher, should support: the examinations have simply been getting easier. Teachers have responded with indignation at this supposed slur on their profession. In *Standards over Time*, the report published today by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) and the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the Government hoped to come up with evidence that would settle the argument one way or the other. But one of the most disturbing findings is that no accurate comparison is possible between results achieved and standards required 20 years ago, and those that obtain today.

This is not just because examination boards have not kept systematic records of examination answers and marking systems, to set alongside question papers. It is because the papers themselves, and the syllabuses followed by students, are as apples to oranges.

The inquiry looked at syllabuses, the papers set and — where these had not been thrown away by the boards — examination scripts in three core subjects, English, maths and chemistry. Only in maths were they able to show that standards in pure maths have declined, along with skills in such core disciplines as algebra and problem-solving; but that is mainly because the maths syllabus has remained relatively constant. Even over maths, dispute continues, with liberal teachers arguing that students are covering a wider field. Gillian Shephard will retort that this is no excuse for falling short in basic pencil-and-paper numeracy — lost to the calculator — or the mental discipline that algebra in particular imparts. She is right, and action must follow.

In English, two findings stand out: the loss of language skills; and the way in which literature syllabuses have drifted away from the traditional canon based on Chaucer,

Milton or even Shakespeare in favour of modern literature. Leaving aside the cultural loss, command of language and vocabulary have suffered correspondingly. In this context, the lack of evidence that it is markedly easier to achieve an A grade in English GCSE than it was 20 years ago is doubly disturbing. It implies that today's students must struggle equally hard to make the grade in less demanding tests.

The merging of language and literature at GCSE level is clearly shown by the report's findings as a mistake to be reversed. Some students may, as some teachers argue, have become reader literary critics; all have lost out, in terms of mastery of such basics of linguistic proficiency as spelling and punctuation, through the stress on understanding rather than the boring grind of grammar.

The Government has been brave to press ahead with an inquiry from which it stands to gain little political profit. Creditably, Mrs Shephard is now prepared to ignore protests that comparison is invidious and odious, and draw some obvious policy conclusions.

There must be a return to rigorous testing — which means far less use of calculators, "open book" tests and crib sheets — in basic grammar and work with numbers. There should also be a sharp reduction in the number of examination courses in order to achieve standards that are not only higher but more transparent; it is absurd, and a clear temptation to look for the soft option that will flatter league tables, that at present, schools can shop around among 45 competing maths courses.

In subject after subject, British universities are finding that students need American-style "foundation year" coaching to reach the levels required for first-year courses. In office after office, employers complain of lacks of basic skills. Understanding and creativity are delightful ornaments; but they must be built on memory — a skill most easily learned young — and on respect for facts and mental discipline.

BOHEMIAN GHOSTS

It is time to draw a line under the Sudetenland shame

For some 60 years, much blood and ink has been spilt over the Sudetenland. The ghost of Munich still stalks *Mitteleuropa*, and this bloodstained Bohemian-German border area most of all. At a meeting at Lisbon this week, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the Czech Prime Minister, Václav Klaus, agreed the broad outlines of a declaration which is intended to draw a line under the Nazi annexations and the Czech expulsions. Officials have been wrangling for two years, but the German Chancellor recently demanded a deal by Christmas. It looks as if Herr Kohl will get his wish.

The prewar Sudetenlanders were largely German-speaking, and most resisted assimilation into Czechoslovakia after the break-up of the Habsburg empire. Their desire to be reunited with the German Reich provided Adolf Hitler with a pretext to undermine a well-armed neighbour, then the only democracy in Central Europe, while testing British and French resistance to his expansionist demands. At Munich Neville Chamberlain and Edouard Daladier agreed to give Germany the Sudetenland, so depriving the Czechs of the means to defend their frontier. Hitler was hailed by the vast majority of Sudeten Germans. In March 1939 Hitler annexed Bohemia and Moravia, set up a puppet regime in Slovakia and ceded Ruthenia to his Hungarian allies.

Czechoslovakia had been extinguished as a nation state. One of the first Nazi atrocities to receive worldwide publicity was the destruction of Lidice and its male inhabitants in 1942 as a reprisal for the assassination of Heydrich, ruler of Bohemia and architect of the Final Solution.

When the German armies were finally

driven out in 1945, and the Second Czechoslovak Republic established under Beneš, hostility towards the Sudeten Germans — seen as a Nazi fifth column — was understandable. It boiled over when up to three million of them were expelled in conditions of great brutality during the winter of 1945-46. All lost their property and many their lives. Ever since, the Sudeten Germans have formed a powerful revisionist lobby in Bonn, where their interests are championed by the Bavarian Christian Social Union, under the late Franz Josef Strauss and now Herr Kohl's Finance Minister, Theo Waigel. After the Communist coup in 1948, Prague pretended the Sudeten Germans had not existed for four decades; Bonn was equally deaf to Czech claims. Only after the Velvet Revolution in 1989 could the new President, Václav Havel, in a noble gesture, offer his regrets to the dispossessed Sudeten Germans. That began to melt the ice, but the Klaus Government has had to tread the path of reconciliation carefully, all the more so since losing its majority earlier this year.

Nobody comes well out of this tale of betrayal, conquest, ethnic cleansing and denial. After a thousand years of mostly mutual respect, Germans and Czechs did terrible things to one another in the Thirties and Forties; neither nation has yet fully acknowledged its guilt. The new German-Czech declaration, whose terms are still secret, will not resolve the vexed questions of war crimes and property rights. But Prague is eager to join the EU and needs Bonn's support; for his part, Herr Kohl seems keen to lance this ancient boil. The peoples of Europe should respond: it is high time.

ANGLING ENEMIES

They don't shoot fellow fishers, do they?

The cormorant is famous for its love of fish. So, in his different ways, is the fisherman. The object of their loves has only the scaly choice between the beak of the former, and the hooks of the latter. But, as we report today, a fish war has now broken out between anglers and cormorants. An underground culling campaign has begun, with anglers in combat camouflage shooting cormorants stealthily and illegally by night.

The provisional wing of the angling army has might if not right on its side. The latest *Economist* statistics report that 4 per cent of the adult population of Britain claim to go fishing in one form or another at least once a quarter. Even allowing for the extravagance of fishermen's claims, angling is the country's biggest participant sport. About four million fishermen of all sorts take part in activities that cost £1 billion and employ 80,000.

The cormorant too, however, is a wonder of nature. It is descended from high up in the evolutionary family tree and is the most perfectly adapted predator for operating in the elements of air, water and land. The Japanese even use it as a surrogate fisherman with a ring around its neck. Cormorants force it to disgorge its catch. Cormorants have been caught in traps in the Lake District more than 120 ft beneath the surface. But the cause of war is the cormorant's voracity. Its daily intake of fish averages 14-25 oz, its equivalent to 15 per cent of its body weight. It catches fish that are not normally eaten for

choice by human beings — but then, so do the anglers. Angling organisations allege that cormorants devour fish worth £1 million a year and that their clubs face ruin.

So they want cormorants taken off the protected list and classed as vermin through amendment of the 1981 Wildlife and Fisheries Act and several EU directives. This month's angling press carries such headlines as "Wipe out the Black Plague", and the president of the National Federation of Anglers is quoted as saying that "the short-term answer to the problem is to shoot the bloody things". Anglers at the Fritton Lake park in Norfolk employ a certain Margaret Thatcher (an American bald eagle with a 7 ft wingspan) to scare off the cormorants.

Although anglers are at pains to distance themselves from other field sports, angling is no longer a contemplative waterside activity. Its big business has brought in greed and crime, smugglers and poachers who use cyanide and hand-grenades. Fishing is a true survival of man's activity as hunter-gatherer. But the cormorants have been at the game longer and are better adapted to it.

So anglers must learn to live and let live with the cormorants, as they do with such less efficient fishers as herons and kingfishers. Otherwise they will excite the attention not just of the *Antis* who oppose blood sports. They will also sound the alarm to the nation's bird-lovers, who outnumber even anglers and are even more dedicated.

Straight talking on future of EU

From Mr R. J. Whitnell

Sir, With its lack of suitable plans for alternatives, should not the policy of "wait and see" be described rather as "wait till it's too late"?

Yours truly,
R. J. WHITNELL,
13 East Street,
Mansea, Cambridgeshire,
December 4.

From Mr John Davis

Sir, Mr A. D. Gattling (letter, November 29) complains that we have been deceived for 25 years about the nature of the EEC/EU.

But who deceived Mr Gattling and those like him? Not the Europeans, who have never concealed the essentially federal nature of the union and its aspirations for ever closer integration. It has been our own political leaders. Some knew and were very economical with the truth. Some never bothered to find out.

I am at a loss to understand why Europeanists outside Parliament are so keen to restore unfettered freedom of action to these snake-oil salesmen.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DAVIS,
54 Woodlands Road,
Bookham, Surrey.

From Mr John Wilkinson, MP for Ruislip, Northwood (Conservative)

Sir, You have done your readers a signal service in reprinting today much of Sir Roy Denman's suggested briefing note on Britain and Europe for a newly-elected President of the US in 2004. It demonstrates that those who have been campaigning against the process of "ever closer union" as set out in the Maastricht treaty are not tiling at windmills.

What is so depressing is not so much that a former high official of the European Union, who was at the heart of its policy and representation to the outside world in the 1980s, should be so candid about the federal destiny of the organisation for which he used to work. Rather the causes for concern are Sir Roy's defeatism about the prospects for the United Kingdom and his assumption that exclusion from the European Union would relegate Britain to second-class status in Europe.

Britain's aim has always been to secure a coalition of interests to counterbalance a preponderant central power on the Continent. Small countries can be economically successful without being politically absorbed into their continental hinterland. Chile, Taiwan and Singapore are good examples. In the case of Singapore it was leaving the Malaysian Federation, which proved the spur to its spectacular and enviable economic growth.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILKINSON,
House of Commons,
November 29.

From Mr J. B. da Silva

Sir, "Britain in 2004: out on a limb?" sounds rather like Switzerland. Would that be so dire?

Yours truly,
JOHN DA SILVA,
Cope Close, Virginia Water, Surrey,
November 29.

From Lord Monson

Sir, In his vigorous clarion call for Britain to leave the EU (article, November 26) my cross-bench colleague Lord Wyatt of Woodford makes one small, if common, error: asserting that "We are obliged to shore up poor countries such as Greece, Portugal and Spain."

Yes, we are obliged by EU rules to help shore up these three countries, plus the Irish Republic. But no, they are not "poor" by world or even European (in the correct sense) standards. The worthy goal of friendship and trade with our neighbours should not involve British taxpayers having to subsidise countries in the top quartile of the global prosperity league.

Yours faithfully,
MONSON,
House of Lords.

Ban on handguns

From Mr Laurie Hinds

Sir, I was proud to join the several thousands of fellow sportsmen in Hyde Park on Sunday (News in brief, December 2) rallying for the preservation of handgun target shooting. Proud also to see Ms Carol Page, our competitor in handgun shooting at the Atlanta Olympic Games, take centre stage on the platform.

But I was sad that irrational, emotional and ill-informed bias has resulted in proposals to ban most handguns and destroy a sport in which this country can be justly proud of its achievements. Sad, too, that the wheel-chair-bound shooters who joined the rally will no longer have a sport in which they compete on an equal basis with the rest of us: sad that the compensation in excess of £100 million which will be paid to gun owners will not apply to the many businesses which will collapse; and even sadder that such funding will not be put to more constructive use in our society.

Yours faithfully,
LAURIE HINDS,
4 Mayfair Gardens,
Woodford Green, Essex,
December 2.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Search for Aids vaccine a 'priority'

From the Director of the National Aids Trust

Sir, Your leading article in support of World Aids Day (December 2) is most welcome, and most of its points are very well made.

However, there is one claim that bears closer examination. When you assert that "The overriding priority of Western governments is the search for a vaccine", it must be said that there is little evidence to support this, although there have recently been assertions by President Clinton and his Health Secretary, Donna Shalala, that vaccine research should indeed be of the highest priority.

As a matter of record, only a small fraction of public research funds in the United States have been allocated directly to vaccine work, yet even that outweighs the combined efforts of the rest of the world.

When private and commercial investments are taken into account, the picture is even worse. The market for vaccines is perceived to be in countries that cannot afford to pay for them, and is assessed as being smaller than that for just one comparatively minor drug.

Although a number of promising approaches exist — and some have been identified by British researchers, funded by our own Medical Research Council — they appear to be languishing for lack of private investors prepared to join in partnerships with a view to bringing them to market.

Furthermore, as emphasised by the International Aids Vaccine Initiative launched earlier this year in Vancouver, there has been an over-concentration of the little vaccine research that has been done on the one rather peculiar subtype of HIV that is commonest in Europe and North America, at the expense of the other subtypes which affect the majority of people with HIV worldwide.

No one would argue that vaccine research should be pursued at the expense of all other approaches. There is

much to be achieved in HIV and Aids prevention globally by improving treatment for other sexually transmitted diseases and for tuberculosis, through condom provision, screening of blood transfusions and education programmes. Similarly, research on treatments has a long way to go before there will be genuinely practicable and affordable options for the majority of people with HIV.

However, it is an increasingly widespread expert view that current efforts towards HIV vaccine research are grossly inadequate, and that vaccines should be accorded a much higher priority.

The British Government's record in this area has been better than many, and it may be time to review how as a society we could make an even stronger contribution to the long-term goal of eradicating HIV and Aids.

Yours sincerely,
DEREK BODELL,
Director,
National Aids Trust,
New City Cloisters,
188-196 Old Street, EC1,
December 2.

From the Chief Executive of the Terrence Higgins Trust

Sir, I welcome your leading article "Day of Aids". You rightly point out that panic and paranoia often shape the response to this virus and recognise the continued importance of Aids education programmes and safer-sex campaigns, however difficult and at times controversial these are to run.

World Aids Day is also an appropriate time to reinforce the importance of the ultimate goal of finding a vaccine and to ask why this research is being starved of funds.

Yours sincerely,
NICK PARTRIDGE,
Chief Executive,
The Terrence Higgins Trust,
52-54 Gray's Inn Road, WCI,
December 2.

Children and TV

From Mr Ian Curteis

Sir, Mr Paul Berry is right (letter, November 28). The 9pm television watershed has become a useless anachronism and should be replaced by some form of certification of programmes; but does this go far enough?

Of children aged 10-16, 53 per cent now have their own, unsupervised, TV sets in their bedroom. They can easily circumvent the watershed and I am perfectly certain most do. Thirteen per cent have their own video recorders, allowing them to record and play back any programme however late at night, however violent, "adult" and explicit and whatever its future certification (article, Media, December 4).

With 401 killings shown in a typical week of British television (there are 14

actual killings per week in this country), 119 woundings with guns, knives and other weapons, 188 brisings and 27 acts of sexual violence, it is not hard to see what effect this may have on a child, his or her subconscious perception of what is acceptable, even glamorous, in the adult world.

Perhaps broadcasters should turn their minds to what can effectively replace the watershed. It could be that certification plus some simple form of electronic tagging on programmes, coupled with a simple control within the TV set that would allow some categories of programmes through but not others — at parents' control — might be the way forward.

Yours truly,
IAN CURTEIS,
The Mill House, Coln St Aldwyns,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
November 25.

Down's syndrome

From the Ambassador of The Netherlands

Sir, Tucker Carlson's article ("When a life is worth living", November 29) states that "infants with Down's syndrome are routinely starved to death in Dutch hospitals". Since the article lacked statistical evidence for this irresponsible statement I have asked the Foundation for Down's Syndrome in The Netherlands to provide me with the appropriate data.

One out of 800 newborn babies in The Netherlands suffers from Down's syndrome. This implies that approximately 200 Down's infants are born annually. Of those, at least 194 babies per year are registered — voluntarily — at the Foundation for Down's Syndrome.

According to the foundation's extensive knowledge, one case of a baby with Down's syndrome has been reported in which — upon request by the parents — doctors decided to withhold the necessary operations. I suppose that it is this single, well-known case, which was widely discussed in my country in 1987, that has led to such an offensive report.

Yours sincerely,
J. H. R. D. van ROUEN,
Royal Netherlands Embassy,
38 Hyde Park Gate, SW7,
December 2.

Winter weather

From Mr T. L. José

Sir, Each year, as has been recently demonstrated, when winter sets in with bouts of snow and ice there is chaos on the roads and railways of Britain.

Surely it is time that there was a statutory obligation on highway and railway authorities to take appropriate action to minimise the effects of inclement weather conditions. The additional costs would no doubt be recouped from savings made to the National Health Service, vehicle insurance claims and damage to road and rail fabric.

Yours faithfully,
T. L. JOSÉ,
22 Shelbourne Place,
83 Park Road, Beckenham, Kent,
December 3.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Easing the path to early retirement

From the Director of the Carnegie Third Age Programme

Sir, Your advice in today's excellent feature and leading article that people should phase in their retirement would be easier to act upon if more British employers made it possible.

Enabling people to move gradually towards retirement through part-time working makes sense for everyone concerned, particularly if the job is shared between an older and younger worker. French and German employers have been pre-empting this for years. It has proved an effective means of retaining experience, passing on skills from one generation to another and reducing the anxiety that many feel at the onset of full retirement.

Sadly, few employers in the UK have made the relatively easy changes necessary to allow people to retire gradually without seriously damaging their pension entitlements.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WORSLEY,
The Carnegie Third Age Programme,
PO Box 160,
Burnham Norton,
Kings Lynn, Norfolk,
November 25.

From the Director of Family College

Sir, Your article by Jason Cowley makes early retirement or "portfolio life" seem particularly alluring at a time of shifting trends in employment practice and with the emotional attrition that prolonged job insecurity creates for the employee.

It makes only passing reference to the importance of a "supportive wife" in all this. Given the number of relationships that survive a working lifetime only to fail in retirement, I think it would have been helpful to spend more time looking at strategies for juggling career and family, rather than focusing on the supposed material necessities for a successful *troisième âge*, especially when this may need to be home-based.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN MOORE,
Director,
Family College,
King's House, 175 Wokingham Road,
Reading, Berkshire,
December 2.

From Mrs Ann Taylor

Sir, How infuriating are the smug people who claim that early retirement can "set you free" — as if we are not able to work that out for ourselves.

Being forcibly retired (ie, redundant) in one's early 50s with three months' salary as a "cushion" and ten years' loss (not just of earnings but of pension contributions) does not make one feel free. Of that you may be sure.

Yours faithfully,
ANN TAYLOR,
5 The Meadows,
Drinkstone, Suffolk,
November 25.

Lateral thinking

From Ms Cheryl Jones

Sir, If, for fear of being bugged by the police, lawyers have to adopt the practice of taking their clients' instructions in museums (letter, today), will legal aid be stretched to cover the costs of entering the museums (letters, also today)?

Yours faithfully,
CHERYL JONES,
16 Maybourne Grange,
Turnpike Link, East Croydon, Surrey,
December 2.

Heart to hub

From Ms Laura Lewis

Sir, We were delighted to hear that your correspondent whose hubcaps were stolen (letter, November 28) did not require counselling.

However, other victims are not in such an advantageous position and can find even what to some would be considered the most minor crimes very distressing. They are grateful for the emotional support and practical help that Victim Support can offer.

Yours faithfully,
LAURA LEWIS,
(Co-ordinator), South Westminster
Victim Support Scheme,
38 Ebury Street, SW1,
November 28.

From Mr Barrie N. Davies

Sir, Some years ago, my wife and I were shopping in a supermarket when our trolley was taken from behind us by a leggy young man who ran off with it, somehow evading the checkout. The trolley held a dilapidated and empty briefcase, a rented video and a pound of onions.

The supermarket reported the theft and the following week we were offered counselling. We wondered what could possibly be said to comfort us.

Yours sincerely,
BARRIE N. DAVIES,
22 Grange Road, Ealing, W5.

From Mr Ken Beere

Sir, Those who jeer so readily at the offer of counselling for the loss of their hubcaps patently do not have a car-owning son.

Yours faithfully,
KEN BEERE,
Pump Cottage,
Slindon, Arundel, West Sussex,
November 30.

DAME PENELOPE JESSEL

not done. The black marketers must be severely dealt with and also the informers, the "quislings". The lynching in Rome will seem a kindergarten game compared with what will happen here when the pent up wrath and indignation of the masses is let loose. . . .

When we hear it (rumour) that the processing Power has been asked to send us supplies. It will be very nice for us, but it will also be very nice for the Germans. I hear that a question was asked about us in the House of Commons this week, and that the reply was: "The garisons of Jersey and Guernsey were given a chance to surrender, but refused. There is no reason to suppose that the inhabitants are not being properly treated," and that was it!

Again this shows a lack of imagination on the part of the BBC. How do they know how we are being treated? Let them come and try it and see if they think it "proper".

NEWS

Soft options at A level to be curbed

Gillian Shephard will today order a return to rigorous testing of basic grammar and arithmetic at A level and introduce strict curbs on the ability of schools to "shop around" for soft option examination courses.

The education and employment secretary, alarmed at a decline in literacy levels among even the brightest A-level students in English over the last 20 years, wants all courses to place greater emphasis on spelling and writing. Page 1

Anglers out to catch hungry cormorants

Militant anglers are defying the law by shooting and poisoning cormorants, a protected species which they say is devastating their sport. The birds, whose numbers have increased in recent years to around 7,200 pairs, may be shot only under licence. Page 1

New country

A British resident is standing as Labour candidate in local elections on the Spanish Costa del Sol. Page 1

Japan 'must pay'

The Government took the risk of upsetting Japanese industry by suggesting that Japan's wealthiest companies should pay compensation to thousands of British prisoners of war. Page 2

Picnic machete attack

A machete-wielding attacker likened himself to the killers Thomas Hamilton and Michael Bryant after he attacked a class of nursery children as they enjoyed a teddy bears' picnic, a jury was told. Page 3

Party warning

Too much Christmas party spirit in the office will lead to acrimonious disputes in the new year, say lawyers. Page 5

Ford race row

A bitter public row flared over allegations of "institutionalised racism" at Ford's Dagenham plant after two union leaders fell out over the allegiance of the company's highest paid manual workers. Page 8

Bag lady myth

Homeless women are more likely to be educated, married mothers suffering from schizophrenia or depression than elderly alcoholics carrying plastic bags. Page 10

Dog lover kept on a leash

A Moroccan millionaire is suing American Airlines after being tied up by the captain of her New York flight while her dog ran riot in first class. Marcelle Becker had bought one first class seat for herself and another, by the window, for her miniature Maltese, Dom Perignon. But while she slept the dog escaped and Mrs Becker woke up very angry. Page 1

Child police

Children will go "undercover" to catch shopkeepers who flout lottery rules under plans announced for a clampdown on underage gambling. Page 11

Nuclear plea

Retired generals and admirals from countries including Britain, America and Russia issued a joint demand for the complete elimination of the world's nuclear arsenal. Page 13

Paris under guard

Hundreds of police and soldiers armed with machineguns were patrolling the streets, railway stations and landmarks of Paris, after the bomb on a crowded commuter train. Page 14

Exiles anger

Sudeten Germans, expelled from Czechoslovakia after the Second World War, will make life difficult for Helmut Kohl if he goes ahead with a long-delayed friendship treaty with Prague. Page 15

Gay marriages

A Hawaiian judge has become the first in American history to declare that denying marriage licences to homosexual couples is unconstitutional. Page 16

New CIA chief

President Clinton appeared set to move Anthony Lake, his National Security Adviser and key negotiator on Ireland, to the directorship of the CIA. Page 17



Two Japanese students were among the passengers to take Eurostar to Paris when the service through the Channel Tunnel reopened. Page 7

BUSINESS

Jobs: Bass plans to create 7,000 British jobs in the next few months. But ScottishPower is to axe more than 2,000 jobs at its Southern Water subsidiary and NatWest confirmed that 10,000 jobs will go and 200 branches close by the millennium. Page 25

Airlines: Delta and Continental are in talks to create the largest carrier in America. Page 25

Hotels: Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the Saudi billionaire who is a nephew of King Fahd, is to buy the George V hotel in Paris from Granada. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 16.3 to 4054.2. Sterling's index fell from 93.7 to 92.7 after a fall from \$1.6520 to \$1.6382 and from DM2.5894 to DM2.5602. Page 28

Cricket: Mashonaland were 279 for nine in reply to England's first innings of 197 in their four-day match in Harare. Robert Croft followed his 80 not out with four wickets. Page 48

Football: Jimmy Case was dismissed as manager of Brighton, the bottom club in the Nationwide League. George Petchey, 64, the reserve and youth coach, becomes caretaker manager. Page 48

Rugby union: Tony Underwood, who has not played for England since the World Cup semi-final last year, has been recalled for the match against Argentina. Page 45

Tennis: Andre Agassi lost 3-6, 4-6 to Mark Woodforde in the first round of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup in Munich. Page 46

Films: Thanksgiving Day from hell is the subject of Jodie Foster's *Home for the Holidays*, while Christmas cheer is thin on the ground in Arnold Schwarzenegger's *Jingle All the Way*. Page 37

Videos and records: A kidnapping drama with a modern twist in the Coen brothers' wonderful *Fargo*, while Valery Gergiev conducts his thrilling Kirov Opera singers and orchestra in a Russian epic. Page 38

Largesse: The National Lottery has handed out millions of pounds to great arts projects, but will the recipients be able to raise the necessary funds from private donors to make them happen? Page 39

Good start: Martin McDonagh's debut play, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, in London. Page 39

Giles Coren on answerphones. It is only by listening to people's messages that you can get to their soul. Page 19

Christmas Appeal: There is an insatiable demand for powdered horn and rhinos are hunted to extinction. Page 19

Dr Thomas Stuttaford says that despite the Duchess of York's complaints, better a scar than a damaged baby. Page 18

Past, present future: Jeanette Winterson on Tardis, Michael, Hofmann: an Icelandic hodge-podge; Hardy Amies: uniforms; Anthony Storr: rebels. Pages 40, 41

Beating in the sun: Holidaymakers have been booking up country cottages after the summer. November on record. Page 34

Bargain: Champagne Christmas: self-catering in Barbados. Page 35

France's "neutrality" towards Algeria can only mark it out as a target. Of course this policy is completely irrational, which does not trouble the Islamic criminals. Each new terrorist attack in France has the effect of reinforcing Zéroual's position by making his intransigence against the "blind killers" understandable. — *Liberation*, Paris

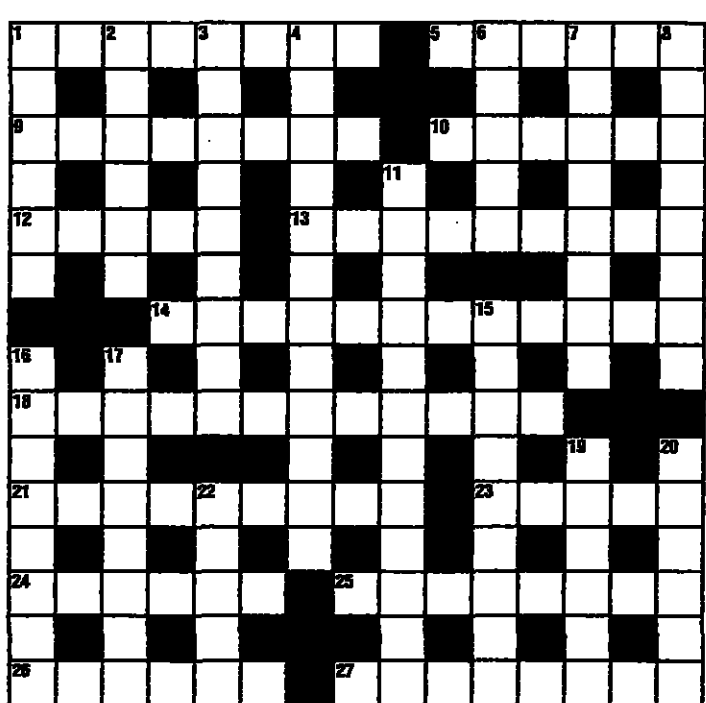
IN THE TIMES

POP
Alan Jackson talks to the veteran soul star, Diana Ross

BOOKS
Christmas presents galore—from fiction to food—reviewed in the Times/Dillons 20-page supplement



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,343



ACROSS

- 1 Collegian plays this part in M.S.N.D., showing pluck (4,4).
- 5 Pass drinks, surrounded by ease, say (6).
- 9 Boy briefly shut in small room, in strict adherence to rules (8).
- 10 Accident when pierced by a heavy knife (6).
- 12 Commotion about new work of art (5).
- 13 Steam train's smoother to Copenhagen, say (4,5).
- 14 Crane to see this picture from vantage point (5-3,4).
- 18 Many, by rain in the resort, confused (12).
- 21 From corrupt free port 1 make excessive amount (9).
- 23 Glamour-girl that gets one barely steamed up? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,342

FASTBUCK BUZZER
A TRICK QUESTION
LEADERSHIP
TOILET AMATEUR
O L D B O
SWEETIE TABLA
E U S A D
ANDER SCHOUER
L K S E L M
PARADES ANXIETY
I D O R T I O
OWN ELONGATE

DOWN

- 24 Governor carrying corn in last carriage (6).
- 25 Challenge heartless Duke intended (8).
- 26 Finishes the Spanish oil (6).
- 27 Climber is an upright character (8).
- 1 Some slew a pitiable deer (6).
- 2 Number One discharging eastern cargo (6).
- 3 One offering lagoon ride without a mishap? (9).
- 4 Bell-ringer likely to parade his hobby-horse? (6,6).
- 6 Reluctant undertaking to support the pound (5).
- 7 Stupid climber wants end of climb before bad weather arrives (3-5).
- 8 Birdie in excellent golf score, unusually low (5,3).
- 11 Feeling of solidarity needed to understand woman's point (12).
- 15 Girl in 'er teens coming to grief (9).
- 16 It's careless to trip in slippers, say (8).
- 17 Scrap with a fellow worker on the barrier (8).
- 19 Reduced to ashes in a vase in the garden (6).
- 20 Calling to move along quickly (6).
- 22 Release result (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather: All regions 0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410
Inside M25 0336 401 744
M25 and All Roads 0336 401 747
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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Tottenham, 14°C; Lowest: Lowest, 1°C; Highest night temp: Lowest, 1°C; Lowest night temp: Lowest, 1°C.
Highland, 17°C; Highest sunshine: London, 17°C; Highest sunshine: London, 17°C.
Weather Centre, 6:30

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See Table 1.35A.

AirUK

General: England and Wales

are expected to have a bright day, with sunny periods developing after overnight frost and patchy fog have cleared. Coastal showers will continue and later the southeast may become rather cloudy.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a mainly bright, dry day with sunny periods in areas sheltered to the south of high ground. North-facing coasts and hills will have wintry showers.

London, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, NW England, Lake District, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: Frosty, foggy start, clearing. Bright or clear, sunny periods later, mainly dry. Winds light, westerly. Cold. Max 7C (45F).

SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Channel Isles: Frosty start, bright or sunny periods, isolated coastal showers. Cloudier later. Winds light, southwest. Cold. Max 7C (45F).

SW England, S Wales, N Wales, Isle of Man, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Moray Firth, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: Clear or bright periods. Showers, mainly over the north-facing coast and hills, wintry in places. Wind moderate, north-west. Cold. Max 6C (43F).

Central Highlands: Clear or sunny periods. Snow showers in north, drifting in mountains. Winds moderate, northerly. Cold. Max 3C (37F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, frequent wintry showers, frequent intervals. Winds fresh or strong, northerly, easing. Cold. Max 5C (41F).

Outlook: Frosty, foggy nights, bright by day. Cloudier in south-east. Rain in northwest later.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b: bright; c: cloudy; dr: drizzle; ds: dust; m: mist; d: drizzle; f: fog; g: gale; h: hail; i: ice; l: light; m: mist; n: rain; o: overcast; s: sun; sh: shower; t: thunder; w: wind; x: snow; y: rain; z: rain; 24 hrs to 5 pm: b: bright; c: cloudy; dr: drizzle; ds: dust; m: mist; d: drizzle; f: fog; g: gale; h: hail; i: ice; l: light; m: mist; n: rain; o: overcast; s: sun; sh: shower; t: thunder; w: wind; x: snow; y: rain; z: rain.

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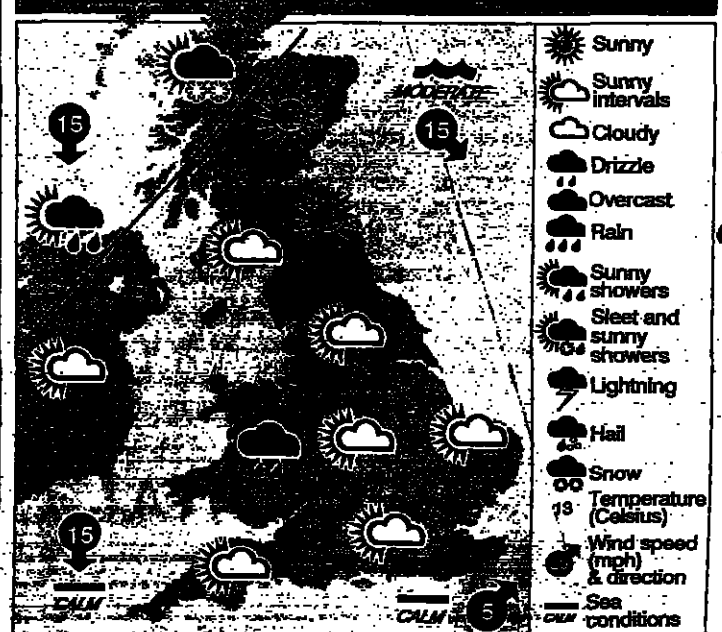
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High A will remain slow-moving and will continue to build. Low V will continue to move northeast. Low J will be slow-moving close to Spain.



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